



**CALLED TO  
MAGNIFY**  
PROCLAIMING CHRIST AMONG THE NATIONS

# Paul's Goal in Ministry

**COLOSSIANS 1:21-2:5**

**STUDY GUIDE**

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**WELCOME:**  
Fixing  
Our Focus

**Suggested Icebreaker:**

Ask each GG member to share their current ministry involvements in or outside GCF. What are the victories and challenges experienced?

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**WORSHIP:**  
Adoring  
Our God

**Suggested song:**

[Make Me A Servant](#)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### LESSON AIM

To understand the Centrality of Christ in Ministry both to an unbelieving world and to the churches.

### INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul emphasized the centrality of Christ to the faith of the Colossian believers and explained why Christ is central to his ministry. Essentially, He has been entrusted with the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the mystery that the Colossian believers have placed their trust in. Despite the fact that Paul has yet to see the faces of his readers, his affection and devotion to them are evident in this passage of scripture.

#### I. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Colossian believers to continue in their faith by realizing that they have reconciliation with God by Christ (vv. 1:21–23).

1. How were the Colossians described by the Apostle Paul prior to their reconciliation by Christ? (v. 1:21a)
2. By what act of Christ were the believers reconciled? (v. 1:21b-22a)
3. How did the apostle Paul desire that the Colossian believers be presented as by Christ's sacrifice? (v. 1:22b)
4. Clearly, the Colossians were already saved (reconciled), and their salvation was secure, so they would certainly be presented to God. But what is the condition for being presented as holy, blameless, and above reproach before God? (v. 1:23)

#### Application:

How have you been tempted to give up on the Christian life? What keeps you moving forward?

#### II. The Apostle Paul revealed that he was steward of the mystery of Christ (vv. 1:24–27)

1. What was the Apostle Paul's attitude regarding suffering for the Colossian believers? (v. 1:24)
2. What was the purpose of the Apostle Paul's stewardship from God? (v. 1:25)
3. What is that thing that has been hidden for ages and generations but is now revealed to the believers? (v. 1:26)
4. This mystery is exactly what? (v. 1:27)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### **Application:**

What kind of paradigm is necessary for us in this day and age to look at suffering with rejoicing? Why else do you think that suffering can be a source of rejoicing?

### **III. The Apostle Paul revealed his desire that he present the Colossian believers as mature in Christ (vv. 1:28–29).**

1. Who is it that the Apostle Paul and the other apostles proclaimed in their ministry? (v. 1:28)
2. What were the means by which the Apostle Paul can present the believers at Colossae as mature in Christ? (v. 1:28)
3. What was the source of power for the Apostle Paul in his ministry? (v. 1:29)

### **Application:**

What areas in your Christian life do you think God can still teach and admonish you toward Christ-likeness?

### **IV. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Colossian believers to grow in their knowledge of Christ even as they were praised for their steadfastness in Christ. (vv. 2:1–5)**

1. Apparently the Apostle Paul had yet to visit the church at Colossae and Laodicea as well, and yet he was experiencing struggle for them. Why do you think he was struggling for them? (v. 2:1)
2. There were three things that the Apostle Paul was striving for the churches. Can you identify them? (v. 2:2)
3. How is Christ described in verse 2:3?
4. What was Paul's purpose for describing Christ clearly? (v. 2:4)
5. Despite Paul's not being physically present, in what manner was he present? And what was his state of mind? (v. 2:5)

### **Application:**

In what manner can you communicate Christ clearly to others?  
First for unbelievers, then for believers?

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### PRAYER ITEM

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the example of the Apostle Paul and his devotion to Christ and the spread of the saving message that is the gospel. We pray Father, that we will also have the same enthusiasm and perseverance as Paul. Despite the challenges he faced he established a good example for us to follow. May we deepen our appreciation for Christ who is the mystery that the Apostle Paul so unswervingly preached. We ask your blessing upon our desire to be unswerving in our faith in Jesus. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen. ■



### Your feedback is important to us.

If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



## **Greenhills Christian Fellowship**

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