

# CENTERED

## Part 2: The Christ-Centered Church (Colossians 1:24-2:7)

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### I. WARM-UP DISCUSSION

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For many people going to church is to get something out of the worship service, to have an emotional experience, or to get “charged up” spiritually. Is this the primary purpose for going to church? Explain your answer.

### II. COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:7

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#### A. PAUL'S SUFFERING FOR THE CHURCH

*"Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church." (Col. 1:24)*

- Paul is working to strengthen and build up the church and sometimes it meant suffering.
- Since Jesus died to save his church, those who continue this work, in a sense, suffer like Jesus did.
- To suffer in the service of Christ for the church is not a penalty but a privilege, for it is sharing in his work.

#### B. THE MYSTERY NOW REVEALED

*"I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:25-27)*

- The mystery, now revealed, is that Jesus Christ actually lives in each believer.

#### C. STRIVING FOR FULL MATURITY

*"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally." (Col. 1:28-2:1)*

- Those in the church are to grow and mature, to become like Christ; to have his mindset, his qualities, and to humbly be others-oriented (Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 2:3-7).

#### D. THE MARKS OF A CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,<sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.<sup>4</sup> I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.<sup>5</sup> For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,<sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." (Col. 2:2-7)

1. A Christ-centered church is \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2a).
2. A Christ-centered church is \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2b).
3. A Christ-centered church has a \_\_\_\_\_ in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, (2:2c).
4. A Christ-centered church is not deceived by \_\_\_\_\_ (2:4).
5. A Christ-centered church is \_\_\_\_\_ in its faith in Christ (2:5b).
6. A Christ-centered church is comprised of those who live \_\_\_\_\_ (2:6).
7. A Christ-centered church overflows with \_\_\_\_\_ (2:7).