**BCM Bible Study – Feb 1/2 , 2022**

**Colossians 1:24 – 2:15**

* Is it easy for you to identify yourself as a “minister of the gospel” (Col 1:23) like Paul? Why or why not? What does it mean for you to be a minister of the gospel?

Paul's Ministry: **Colossians 1:24-2:5**

* How does Paul define God's calling on his life?
* Can you join Paul in rejoicing in the midst of suffering and struggles for the sake of other people?
  + **2 Corinthians 1:5-7 and Romans 8:18**. Do these verses help you see Paul's joy in the midst of suffering?
* Compare this passage about Paul's ministry to his description of it in **1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**. What differences and similarities do you notice?
* What aspects of Paul's life as a minister would you like to see more of in your life?

A Mystery –

What is the mystery that God has revealed in this passage?

* What does this act of revelation show us about who God is?
* How does the original understanding of the Gospel as a mystery impact how you think about sharing it today?
* Considering what we studied about Jesus last week in 1:15-20, what feelings does the idea of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” arouse in you?

Maturity –

* How does this impact how you think about spiritual maturity?
  + Would you consider yourself to be spiritually mature then? What areas might still need growth for you?
* What can we learn from Paul’s goal for spiritual maturity here as we consider our own ministry opportunities?
  + Is it surprising to you that this would be Paul’s goal? What else might you have expected from Paul?
* How does Paul present Jesus as a contrast to this false teaching?
* What “plausible arguments” today lure us away from Christ and hinder our spiritual maturity?

Walk in Him – **Colossians 2:6-7**

* Paul calls the Colossians to walk (or live) in Christ in the same way that they received him. What circumstances do you remember about when you first received Christ? What thoughts or emotions did you have?
* What does it mean to continue to live in Christ in the same way as we received Him?
* Is it surprising that Paul’s primary method so far for combatting false teaching has been ensuring the Colossians’ knowledge and relationship with Jesus? Would you have expected something else?
* Which of the different directions in verse 7 do you think you most need to grow in?
* Paul calls the Colossians to live “as they were taught.” Do you have a sense of respect and attention for the ways you have been taught to live in Christ?

Made Alive With Him – **Colossians 2:8-15**

* Verse 8 gives the first real glimpse of the heresy being taught to the Colossians. What was wrong with this false teaching?
* How do you respond to the idea of being *complete* or having *fullness* in Christ?
* How do you “see to it” (v8) that you are continuing to be filled with Christ rather than taken captive by “human tradition”?
* What do the images of circumcision (v11) and baptism (v12) tell us about our relationship with God?
* What are some of the implications of Jesus' work on the cross from v13-15? How do these realities affect you personally?