

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study  
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee  
12/7/11

Colossians, *Christian Maturity*  
Week One: Maturing Hope-vv. 1:21-2:5

**Introduction:**

Setting

Time

Themes

Key Words and Phrases:

**Section One:** -vv. 1:21-29

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,  
22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,

25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

**Content Questions:**

- In what condition were the Colossians once? Where are they now?
- What is the qualification of verse 23?
- In what does Paul rejoice? What is Paul's purpose as a minister in verse 25?
- What is the mystery hidden, according to this passage?
- What does Paul do about this mystery (v. 28)? What is the goal of this proclamation? What resources does Paul bring to bear for this mission?

**Discussion Questions:**

- Who might be the Gentiles now? How do you reach out to them?
- What is the mystery and how have you come to know something about it? When was the last time you proclaimed it? To whom?
- How are you moving toward the goal of maturity in Christ? Where are some growth areas for you?

## **Section Two:-vv. 2:1-5**

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,

3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

### **Content Questions:**

- Has Paul seen these Christians face to face before writing this letter? What does he want them to know (v. 1)?
- What does Paul hope the result of this letter will be?
- What does Paul say about Jesus here? Who is He?
- What is his purpose in saying these things (v. 4)? How does he ground this concern (v. 5)?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Are there Christians that you engage in a great struggle for that you have never met? Who might they be? What might that struggle look like?
- What would maturity in Christ look like as defined by this section?
- What kinds of plausible arguments might delude a Christian? Have you heard any before?
- How is Paul connected to these believers even though he is not physically present with them? How are you connected to other Christians even though you are not personally connected with them?