

sermon notes

May 24, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
"Ministry: The Struggle is Real" | **Colossians 1:24–2:5**

If we are going to present others mature in Christ...

- 1) There will be _____ (1:24)
- 2) There will be _____ (1:25–27)
- 3) There will be _____ in the _____ (1:28–29)
- 4) There will be _____ (2:1–3)
- 5) There will be _____ (2:4–5)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 1:24–29. How did Paul suffer for the sake of the church? List some things from the book of Acts (see also 2 Cor 11:23–28). How did Paul's suffering help believers in the church mature? How does the suffering of disciplers (i.e., ministers) help disciples mature?

Paul talks about his toil as a minister and discipler (and an Apostle) in 1:29. The struggle is real. Why would Paul go through this toil? What's the goal? What is the "energy" that he refers to in 1:29?

Read Colossians 2:1–5. What does a believer who is "mature in Christ" (1:28) look like? Is this a solo effort, or do Christian disciples work as a team? What role does the church have in this?

The biggest emphasis in the passage is Christ himself. Why is Christ the center of Christian maturity rather than merely moral improvement or biblical knowledge?

GET PERSONAL

Paul wants the Colossians to "reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery" (2:2). Have you reached this yet as a believer? What does this assurance look like? How is it achieved?

What role does encouragement play in the lives of disciplers and disciples? What does this encouragement look like? How do you encourage others and how are you best encouraged as a disciple? How does a discipler avoid being too flattering or too brutal with instruction?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What is your level of maturity in Christ? Do an honest assessment. Where are you weak in your faith, knowledge, prayer life, spiritual power, and firmness/steadfastness? Are you susceptible to false doctrines and false teaching? If so, why? How might you strengthen yourself in that area?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What are the "treasures and wisdom and knowledge" hidden in Christ (2:3)? How do we access that treasure as believers? Is Christ a reluctant giver?

Paul says he rejoices in his sufferings (1:24). Is Paul a masochist? How could he possibly rejoice in suffering? Is this an isolated statement/concept in the Bible? How do we, like Paul, make joy in the midst of suffering a reality?