



Pointers and questions on Paul's letter to the

COLOSSIANS

Session 4

1:28 – 2:7

Holding Fast to Jesus

Summary

- 1:28-29** Paul's aim is to see all God's people become mature in Christ. In practice, this means sheer hard work for him, so much so that he has to draw on the strength that God alone can supply.
- 2:1** Paul's struggle is not just for Christians he knows personally but also for those, like the Colossians, who he knows about only from others, not having met them personally.
- 2:2-3** He desires that they be encouraged, united, knowledgeable about their faith, and Christ-centred. That's what true knowledge and wisdom are all about—in contrast to the mistaken views of the false teachers.
- 2:4-5** Though prevented by his imprisonment from visiting the Colossians, out of sight is not out of mind. He remains concerned that they live free from the deceptive teachings and pursuing an orderly, faithful life in Christ.
- 2:6-7** Their key to their doing that is holding fast to Christ with the same enthusiasm that marked their embracing of him at the start of their Christian lives.

Questions to get you thinking

1. While Paul's job was 'admonishing and teaching' believers (1:28), it was not his alone. Who else, according to 3:16, could do this?
2. What do 'admonishing and teaching' mean in practice? How involved are *you* in these activities? And how do you react when you are on the receiving end?
3. In the light of v29, is Christian leadership a comfortable option? How do you think your own leaders measure up against Paul's standard?
4. Paul's concern was for a wide circle of Christians (2:1). It's all too easy for us to become self-centred, locked into our own little sphere of interests. How would you rate yourself in this respect? Are you self-centred or, like Paul, outgoing in your concern for others?
5. What, according to 2:2, is God's 'mystery'? [In the NT, 'mystery' means something previously hidden but now fully revealed.]
6. What do you think Paul means when he says that 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' are to be found in Christ?
7. What are *today's* 'fine-sounding arguments' (2:4) that are apt to draw us away from the Lord and from the standards God has revealed in the Bible?
8. What does it mean for Christians to be 'orderly' (2:5)? If you have other versions of the NT available, see how they translate this term.

