

# MESSAGE

## MATURING IN JESUS

MAY 24/25, 2014 | PASTOR MARK LYNCH | COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

*"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ." (Colossians 1:28)*

### Paul's mission (Colossians 1:28)

- Goal for the people in Colossae
- Transformation of lives
- Paul's mission and purpose was to have believers that were maturing in Jesus

### Maturing in Jesus will lead away from the comfortable

- There will be times of suffering (Colossians 1:24)
- It will lead you to opportunities to invest in people (Colossians 1:28-29)
- You will never be alone (Colossians 1:26-27)

### What to remember as you are maturing in Jesus

- When someone does something to you, they do it to Jesus
- When you do something, you do it with Jesus

# STUDY GUIDE

1. Whether you are alone or with a small group, begin by asking God to speak to you and then read Colossians 1:24-29 aloud.
2. Often people tend to hold the view that Paul's mission was to plant church after church after church. According to Colossians 1:28, what is Paul's mission? How can the church be integral in achieving that mission today?
3. Maturation is marked by noticeable change (Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Corinthians 5:17). What are the changes that people that are maturing in Jesus exhibit?
4. Maturing in Jesus will lead you away from the comfortable. Why is that a challenge for many people in the church today?
5. Read Colossians 1:24. What is Paul's response to the suffering he endures? We don't typically correlate rejoicing with suffering. Is it possible to have joy in times of suffering?
6. As you have matured in Christ, what opportunities have you had to invest in people? Read verses 28-29. Paul lists three ways for us to invest in other people. What are they? What is the most natural for you to do and which is the most difficult?
7. There is a mystery that is unveiled in verses 26-27. What is that mystery? How should the fact that Jesus lives in us impact our everyday life?
8. What are the challenges that people have to overcome as they seek to continually be maturing in Jesus? (The challenges are not always bad are they? Good things can be the most difficult for believers.)
9. What might God be speaking to you about this week? Are you maturing in Jesus, has your faith plateaued, or has it been in a state of decline? What could be one step God is calling you to this week from Colossians 1?

*[Next week we begin a new message series, "Love Your Neighborhood."]*