



# Sermon Guide: Paul's Pastoral Passion - 03/15/26

**Text(s):** Colossians 1:28-2:5

**Big Idea:** *Knowing the mystery of Christ leads to maturity in Christ through the power of God.*

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**Summary of the Sermon** - Paul's pastoral passion is seen in three realities: the **goal**, **power**, and **subject** of his ministry. The goal of Paul's ministry is that believers would grow to maturity in Christ. The power for that work comes from God's strength working through us. And the subject we proclaim is Jesus Christ himself. When these three remain aligned - our goal, our dependence on God's power, and our focus on Christ - the church's (and our own) GPS stays calibrated to the truth of the gospel.

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Paul ties spiritual maturity so closely to the proclamation of Christ rather than simply to knowledge or time spent in the church?
2. In Colossians 1:28, Paul emphasizes teaching and warning "everyone." What does this reveal about the scope and inclusiveness of gospel ministry?
3. Paul describes his ministry as involving toil, struggle, and suffering. How does this challenge modern expectations about what faithful ministry or discipleship should look like?
4. What is the difference between our position in Christ (**secure through salvation**) and our growth in Christ (**sanctification**), and why is it important to hold both truths together?
5. Paul repeatedly emphasizes Christ as the center and content of proclamation. What are some ways churches or believers can unintentionally shift the focus away from Christ?
6. Paul's goal is not simply individual maturity but that believers would be encouraged and knit together in love (Col. 2:2). Why do you think spiritual growth meant to happen in community rather than isolation?
7. If spiritual maturity involves becoming more like Christ, what practices or habits (**Means of grace**) help expose our lives to the Spirit's transforming work?

## **Rufus's Questions from the Sermon:**

### **1. Questions About the Goal of Ministry (Maturity in Christ)**

- Is the goal of your life to mature in Christ and see others do the same?
- Do you spend time in prayer and in the reading of God's Word?
- Do you intentionally pursue fellowship with other believers?
- Do you regularly worship in private devotion and corporately with the church?
- Are you seeking to become more like Jesus in your character, thoughts, words, and actions?

### **2. Questions About the Power of Ministry (God's Strength)**

- Do you rely on the power that God supplies through His Spirit?
- Do you allow His power to be made perfect in your weaknesses or struggles?
- Or do you rely on your own strength to battle temptation or to serve others?

### **3. Questions About the Subject of Ministry (Christ Himself)**

- Is Jesus the ultimate and primary subject of your life?
- Do you seek to make Him known to others in word and deed?
- Or is your mind preoccupied with worldly things?
- Is your life dominated by unrepentant sin?
- Have you allowed other interests or distractions to keep you from pursuing the eternal treasures found in knowing Christ?

**Final Question - Is my spiritual GPS in alignment with the truth of God's Word?**