

Colossians 1:24–2:5 Sample Responses | Mary Hannah and Kelsie Ellison

Structure

From Mary:

Paul **rejoices** in his **suffering** to proclaim Christ on behalf of the church, for their maturity (1:24–29).

Paul's Word ministry in general

- Beneficiaries of Paul's God-given ministry, including its suffering: the church
- Focus of Paul's God-given ministry: to make fully known God's word, the mystery (i.e., Christ in you)
- Aim of Paul's God-given ministry: presenting all the saints mature in Christ
- Empowerment for Paul's God-given ministry: Christ's energy that he powerfully works in Paul

More specifically, Paul **struggles** for the Colossians and Laodiceans that they may be encouraged to reach full assurance in Christ, even as Paul **rejoices** in their good order and firmness of faith in Christ (2:1–5).

Specific comments about his Word ministry for those he has not met

- More specific beneficiaries of Paul's God-given ministry: include those he has not met in person, including the Colossians and Laodiceans
- More specific aim of Paul's God-given ministry: encourage the saints whom he hasn't met in person to reach full assurance in knowing Christ, not least to equip them against being deluded by false teachers

From Kelsie:

1:24–29 Paul's Suffering for the proclamation of Christ

2:1–5 Paul's Struggle for the saints to have full assurance of Christ

Unifying Theme

From Mary: In light of the Lord Jesus Christ's all-embracing supremacy (*preceding passage*), Paul rejoices in his sufferings to proclaim Christ on the church's behalf in order that the church may reach full maturity and assurance in Christ and not be deluded by plausible arguments aiming to diminish Christ—objectives for which Paul toils with Christ's energy.

From Kelsie: God desires to reveal the mystery of Christ through the warning and teaching of his word and present saints as mature in Christ and firm in the truth of the Word.

Paul's Aim/Purpose

From Mary: Paul aims to **encourage** his readers/hearers:

by conveying his joyful toil on their behalf according to the stewardship God has given him to proclaim Christ,

by articulating his overarching ambition that saints in Christ reach maturity and full assurance in Christ,

and **by reiterating** that Christ himself is God's mystery, so that they are not deluded by "Jesus plus" sort of false teaching claiming there are "mysteries beyond Christ" a Christian must ascertain.

From Kelsie: Paul aims to show that he is commissioned by God to join in his mission of proclaiming the truths of the scriptures and presenting saints firm in their faith and mature in Christ.