

Paul: the man & his mission

Colossians 1:24-2:5

Passion

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness (24-25)

- Arising from an awareness of God's call on his life

Acts 9

- As a resource to enable one to find meaning, even in the presence of suffering.

Mission

... to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶ the *mystery* that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this *mystery*, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

(25b-27)



Vision (28-2:6)

Information

²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing (everyone) and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

(28-29)

Information

- We proclaim
 - Admonish
 - Teach
- The End in mind
 - Perfection
- The resource required

Transformation

^{2:1}I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. ² **My purpose** is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the *mystery* of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (2:1-3)

Determination

⁴ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

(2:4-5)

Determination

- We are all prone to deception
- The way to avoid to avoid deception
 - Order (thinking)
 - Firm (foundation)

So What

- What are you passionate about?
- What is your mission?
- How does your vision compare to Paul's?
 - Is your mind being *informed* by the Word of God?
 - How is your life being *transformed* by what you know?
 - Are you *determined*?

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