**Knowing Christ, the Mystery of God**

Colossians 1:24-2:5

Key Verse 2:2

1. What does it mean that Christ’s afflictions are still lacking? (24; 1:18, Acts 9:4-5) Why did Paul rejoice in participating in Christ’s sufferings? (cf. 1 Peter 4:13)

2. What is this mystery Paul speaks of? (26-27; Ephesians 3:5-6) Why does Paul emphasize that this mystery is now disclosed to the Lord’s people? (26)

3. What was the goal of Paul’s ministry? (25,28, 2:2) What does it mean to be fully mature in Christ? (28)

4. How does understanding the mystery of God free us from “hollow and deceptive philosophy” (2:8) and “human commands and teachings” (2:22)? (2:4)