

## This Sermon Is About Five People

Colossians 1:24—2:4

Today we continue our series on Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Let's get to know a woman named **Dana**

- She's sorta like Adam. And maybe she's like you as well.

Four themes for **Adam and Eve** in Genesis 1-3: Creation => Fall

- Life => But now ending with death and suffering
- Work => But now sweat and toil
- Dominion and Stewardship => But now thorns and thistles resisting us
- Be fruitful and multiply => But now with increased labor pains

Now the Apostle **Paul**: he echoes these themes in Colossians 1:24 - 2:4:

- Life => But now with death & suffering
  - "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake..." (1:24)
- Work => But now sweat and toil
  - "For this I toil, struggling with all his energy..." (1:29; cf. 1:24)
- Stewardship => But now thorns and thistles resisting us
  - "...I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery..." (1:25-26)
  - "I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments." (2:4; cf. 1:24)

- Multiplying => But now with increased labor pains
  - "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." 1:28
  - "For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you..." (2:1)

What is the "mystery"?

- It's a *previous* mystery... from the time of Adam and Eve— but now revealed! (1:26)
- Mystery revealed and defined: "the mystery, which is **Christ** in you, the hope of glory." (1:27; see also 2:3 where mystery simply equals Christ)

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read Colossians 1:24-2:4. We get to know the Apostle Paul in this passage.
  - a. What do you learn about Paul in this passage? Give two or three observations.
  - b. Jesus Christ is obviously much more important than Paul or any other 'ordinary' human, yet Scripture in many places helps us to get to know ordinary people. What do you think this tells us about God and the purpose of Scripture?
  - c. How is Paul inspiring and challenging for you? Consider 1:24, for instance.
2. What does this passage say about Christ? Prayerfully think about 1:27 and 2:2-3 especially.
  - a. 1:27: Do you "hope for glory"? How is this connected to Christ?
  - b. 2:2-3: What example of knowledge or wisdom can you give to illustrate Paul's point?