

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

*Maturity – the goal of Mission*

**Colossians 1:24-2:7 | David Peterson**

## **Introduction**

Addressing the Colossians whom he had never met (1:6–7), Paul reveals that maturity was his goal for every believer.

### **1. Fulfilling the gospel**

#### **a. Paul's divine commission**

1:24–25 'To present the word of God in all its fullness'

1:28–29 To 'present everyone (fully) mature in Christ'

2:1–5 To 'contend' for believers everywhere

#### **b. Disclosing a profound mystery to the Lord's people**

1:26–27 'Christ in you, the hope of glory'

**c. Using a comprehensive approach to gospel ministry**

1:28 Proclamation, warning, and teaching 'with all wisdom'

**2. Reaching the goal**

**a. Maturity in the present**

- Continuing in the faith, 'established and firm,' and not moving from the hope held out in the gospel (1:23);
- Dependent on the finished work of Christ (1:13, 21–22) and living with 'the hope of glory' (1:27);
- Not being deceived by 'fine-sounding arguments' (2:4) but avoiding hollow and deceptive philosophies (2:6–8);
- Not seeking spiritual 'fullness' or completion elsewhere (2:9–15).

**b. Living as God's chosen ones**

3:1–4 In relation to the glorified Lord Jesus

3:5–17 In relation to each other