

A Mile Wide . . . An Inch Deep

Colossians 1:28 – 29
Sermon Discussion Guide

January 5, 2020
New Life Christian Church

OPEN IT

1. What do you think the metaphor “a mile wide and an inch deep” means?

The apostle Paul was always concerned for the spiritual maturity of those to whom he proclaimed Jesus. In the passage you are about to read, you will discover the method’s Paul used in order to make sure the disciples were more than “a mile wide and an inch deep.”

Read Colossians 1:28 – 29.

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Colossians 1:28 – 29

EXPLORE IT

2. What is to be proclaimed? Why?
3. How does Paul clarify what it means to proclaim Christ? What is the difference in each term?
4. What is the difference between teaching and teaching “with all wisdom?”
5. Paul desired that people know Christ rather than knowing about Christ? What is the difference between each and how does that affect the way one lives?
6. Where would you place yourself in regards to knowing Christ or knowing about Christ?

Knowing about Christ

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Knowing Christ

9

10

7. When it comes to knowing Christ, there are a lot of false or distorted views of the Jesus Christ whom we hold up for worship. Matt mentioned the Gnostics in his message. The Gnostics taught that their secret knowledge was the key to salvation. How would Paul's description of Christ (Col. 2:2a – 5) protect the Colossians from the "fine sounding arguments" of the Gnostics?

and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

Colossians 2:2a – 5

8. What "persuasive arguments" today lure us to mold Jesus into something that is distorted and hinder our spiritual maturity?
9. What does it mean to be "complete in Christ?"

APPLY IT

10. Is this kind of change possible? How can you integrate the goal of being "complete in Christ" into your personal life?
11. What can your small group do together to achieve the goal of being "complete in Christ?"