

For Paul his role as an apostle is not one of position but a labour of love, how does his example influence you?

Where does Jesus fit in your life, your work, your priorities?  
How has the study today changed or encouraged your commitment?

## **Groups week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Study 3: Paul's Labour of Love

Readings: Col 1:24 – 2:7  
2Corinthians 5:11 – 21

Read Colossians 1:24 – 2:7

How does Paul describe himself in the introduction of the letter (Col. 1:1)? Who or what is Paul a servant of in Col. 1:25, how does this relate to his description in Col 1:1?

Why do you think this involved suffering?

*(‘still lacking’ in v24 is not saying that Jesus’ sacrifice is insufficient, rather there is still a work to be done in the sense that this message needs to be proclaimed so that people can respond and receive the benefit. Paul’s suffering is as a result of his serving.)*

What is the commission God has given to Paul?

In what sense is ‘Christ in you’ the hope of glory?

Paul speaks of knowing the fear of God yet is compelled by Christ’s love. How do these two statements get reconciled in this passage?

Why does Paul work so hard? What does he hope to achieve?

What is the role God has given to Paul? How is this possible?

How does his aim tie back to the content of the prayer we looked at in the first study?

Why does Paul work so hard in this ministry?

Read 2Corinthians 5:11 – 21

What is Paul’s purpose? How is this similar or different to what we read in Colossians?

How should we look at people around us?