

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: Colossians 1:24-29 – *the Creator's plan was to live inside His people!*

Today's Message:

"Christ in you"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were reminded that Jesus Christ is the head of the body, the church. And He has **made peace** with God (reconciled us to Himself) to present us holy, unblameable, and unreprieveable in His sight. We are blessed. Today, we will finish chapter one with one of the 7 New Testament mysteries revealed to the Apostle Paul, which is Christ **in** you, the hope of glory! We will learn of the purpose and power of the ministry God has given to us to fulfill the word of God. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Colossians 1:24-29

A. The Work of Ministry – rejoicing in our service for Christ and His body.

1. Paul understood that the church (as Christ's body) must **SUFFER** for His glory.

- **Colossians 1:24** – Who now REJOICE in **my sufferings** FOR YOU, and FILL UP **that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ** in my flesh **for his body's sake, which is the church**:
- **Colossians 1:25** – Whereof I am MADE A MINISTER, according to **the dispensation of God** which is GIVEN TO ME **FOR YOU**, to **fulfil the word of God**:

"Fill up" To complete what remains; to take one's share in what is still to come.

"Afflictions" Suffering for Jesus Christ as we represent Him and do His work on earth.

"Minister" Servant; trusted steward or manager of another.

"Dispensation" A divine administration of grace; appointed stewardship entrusted by God.

"Fulfil" To complete or carry out fully the message entrusted by God as steward.

Comparing Scriptures

- **John 15:18-20** – If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
- **Philippians 3:10** – That I may know him... and the fellowship of his sufferings...
- **2 Corinth 1:5-7; Philip 1:29; Romans 8:17-18; 2 Timothy 2:10**

Key Truths

- There is an ongoing measure of affliction we must endure until Christ's work is done.
- We are the servants of Jesus Christ; we serve as His ministers and His ambassadors.

Important Note

Paul does not mean that Christ's death was insufficient.

Acts 9:4

... Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou **ME**?

Acts 20:27

For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all the counsel of God**.

"... for his body's sake, which is the church"

Paul gladly took his share of the suffering that remained for Christ's body, as Christ's servant and representative in the world. He understood it as his privilege and responsibility.

B. The Revealed Mystery – Christ in you – the hope of glory!

2. Paul was appointed by God to make known the **REVEALED** truth entrusted to him.

- **Colossians 1:26** – *Even the MYSTERY which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but NOW is MADE MANIFEST to his saints:*
- **Colossians 1:27** – *To whom God would MAKE KNOWN what is **the riches of the glory** of this MYSTERY among the Gentiles; which is Christ IN YOU, **the hope of glory**:*

“Mystery” In the Bible, something that was once hidden, but is now revealed by God.

“The riches of the glory” The abundance and majesty of this truth being revealed by God.

“Christ in you” The permanent indwelling presence of Jesus Christ inside the believer!

“The hope of glory” Our confident expectation of eternal life and future state with Christ!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Rom 16:25-26** – ... according to **the revelation** of THE MYSTERY, which was kept secret ...
- **Ephesians 1:9-10** – Having **made known unto us** THE MYSTERY of his will ...
- **Eph 1:13-14** – In whom ye also trusted... **were sealed** with that HOLY SPIRIT of promise
- **Galatians 2:20; John 14:23; Romans 8:10-11**

Key Truths

- In God’s eternal plan, Jesus Christ would dwell **INSIDE** believers forming one body!
- God’s plan was not just for Christ to be FOR YOU or WITH YOU but **IN YOU!** Amen.

C. The Purpose of Ministry – to mature believers in Christ by His mighty power.

3. Paul’s aim was to **GROW UP** believers in Christ for Jesus Christ’s sake and glory.

- **Colossians 1:28** – *WHOM we PREACH, **warning every man**, and **teaching every man** IN ALL WISDOM; **that we may present every man** PERFECT IN CHRIST JESUS:*
- **Colossians 1:29** – *Whereunto I also **labour**, **striving** according to HIS WORKING, which worketh IN ME MIGHTILY.*

“Every Man”

All people without distinction.

Philippians 2:13

*For it is God which **worketh in you** both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Isaiah 28:10

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line....

Important Note

The focus is not ideas, or opinions, or traditions, but a PERSON - Christ Himself!

Important Note

*Spiritual growth requires both **learning and obedience**.*

“Warning”

To admonish, counsel, or urge correction; speaking truth in love.

“Teaching”

Instructing and explaining truth systematically – precept upon precept...

“Present”

To stand before as in offering someone complete to God.

“Labour”

To toil to the point of exhaustion; travail.

“Striving”

To contend, like an athlete or soldier.

Comparing Scriptures

- **Eph 4:12-15** – For **the perfecting** of the saints FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY...
- The goal is not sinless perfection; it is a life of obedience to the Lord’s will.

“... that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”

Like a teacher aiming not just for students to pass a test, but to truly understand the subject, Paul wanted believers to grow up in Christ. What is your life like? What is your next step to mature in Jesus Christ? The goal is not salvation only; the goal is reproducing faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:9

*... if so be that the Spirit of God DWELL IN YOU... **the Spirit of Christ**...*

Philippians 1:19

*... the supply of **the Spirit of Jesus Christ**,*

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.