

# JOYFUL SUFFERING TO FORM A NEW FAMILY

**Colossians 1:24-29**

Quotes from “My Heart, Christ’s Home” by Robert Munger (1951)

## COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (ESV)

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which 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 hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

# SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

- **Paul suffers.**
  - He continues what Jesus began.
- **Paul proclaims the Gospel to nonbelievers.**
  - It's not secret anymore because God assigned Paul to proclaim it.
  - Jesus Himself is the Good News, and He is in us who believe!
- **Paul works hard for their formation.**
  - Jesus provides all he needs to do it.

# PARAPHRASE

My pain for you brings me joy, for it continues the difficulties Jesus started on behalf of the people of God. I serve this body of Christ, as God assigned to me. I'm declaring openly the former secrets of God to the holy, set-apart people, many of whom are not of Jewish descent. The glorious, rich secret is the long-promised Messiah Jesus, who is in you, and He is the hope of glory. He is the one we declare, with all His strength coursing through our veins. We declare Him by warning and teaching with His wisdom to develop you into worthwhile offerings to Him.

## COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (NIV)

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

# WHY DOES PAUL SUFFER?

- Why does he suffer?
- He serves the church by obedient proclamation of God's message: Christ in you, Jesus Himself (2:2).
- He wasn't called to pastor but to proclaim to the unbelieving Gentiles (1:1,27).
- He suffers to serve in forming unbelievers into the church.

# **GOSPEL IS RISEN CHRIST: COLOSSIANS 1:15-20**

**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

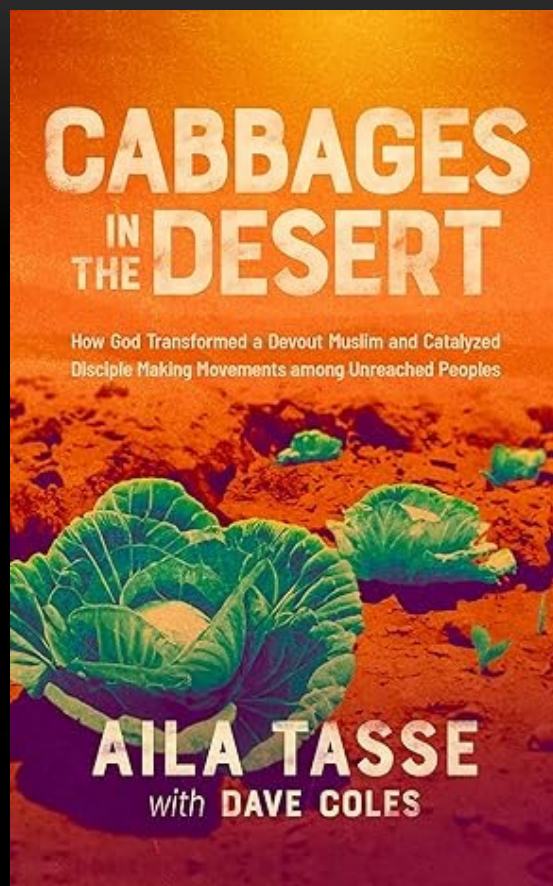
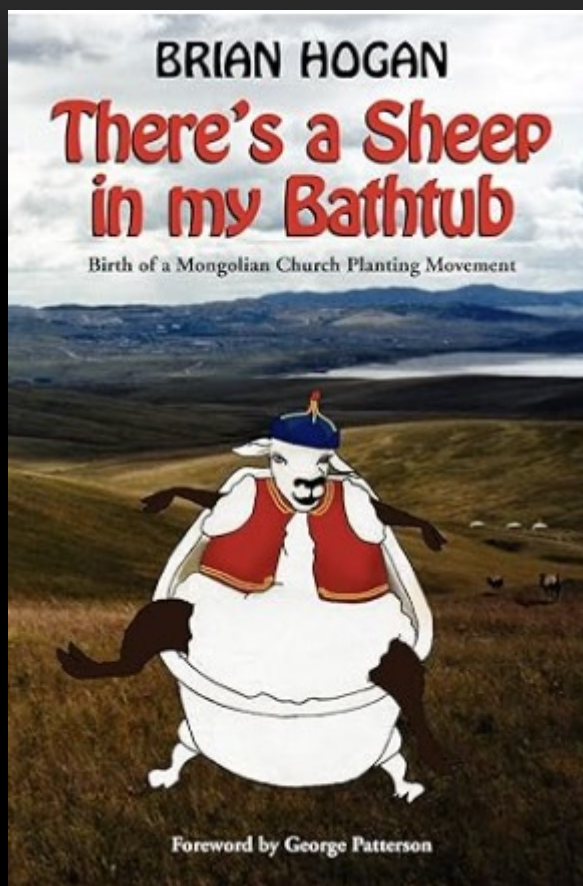
## **GOSPEL IS ATONEMENT: COLOSSIANS 1:21-23**

**Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.**



# WHY DOES PAUL REJOICE?

- **Why does he rejoice in his suffering?**
  - **Jesus had been unknown and far from Gentiles.**
  - **Jesus is now made known.**
    - When they believe, they are brought to life.
    - They are filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus in them.
  - **What a wonderful gift of salvation!**
  - **Now they are a thanksgiving offering back to God.**
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# POWER IS THE STRENGTH OF JESUS

- **Where does Paul get all that energy?**
  - **His power is the strength of Jesus the Messiah.**
    - Living in Paul
    - Living in them
  - **Paul's work is theirs (4:2-6).**
    - The same work is ours.
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## COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

# HOPE OF GLORY IS JESUS

- Hope is for our glory
- Hope is for the world yet unformed but to be formed into His Body through the message—through Jesus Himself.
- Christ is in you.
  - Holy Spirit
  - Paul's hope is ours, too!