

Lesson 2 COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

In the first part of Colossians 1, Paul is praying for the church. The message of the gospel is a gift from a loving Father. It is like a beautifully wrapped gift. Every person receives that gift, but it is up to each of us to open it and use it. The second part of Chapter 1 has a personal meaning for me. I named this Bible study “Hope of Glory” because of the majesty of Colossians 1:27.

1. Read verse 24. Paul seems to be rejoicing over suffering. This is the antithesis of what our culture projects. Also read Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:17. What do these tell you about the journey of a Christian? Has there been a time in your life when trouble and sorrow seemed overwhelming? How did those times affect your faith?

2. Paul identifies the church as the “body” of Christ. It is for the church that Paul willingly suffers and rejoices in that suffering. To understand this concept, see also Ephesians 1:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Write out a prayer asking the Lord to reveal to you the role you play as part of the body of Christ. In other words, what is the eternal purpose of your life?

3. Read Colossians 1:25. Paul has willingly become a servant (or slave) for the church. What do you think was the mindset of a slave at the time of Paul? Do we have that kind of commitment to the body of Christ....the church? How do we achieve that kind of commitment?

4. What is the purpose of Paul’s commission?

5. Read Colossian 1:26-27. What is the mystery? What does ‘Hope of Glory’ mean to you? Can you relate that concept to Revelation 3:5b?

6. Read Colossians 1: 28-29. Paul’s goal is that all Christians reach maturity in their faith. What things does Paul consider necessary in achieving that maturity?

APPLICATION: Reread verse 29. Who provides the energy for us to be servants of the church as Paul was? If there is an area in your life that is a struggle, commit it to the Lord. Let him help bear the weight of that struggle. See Matthew 11:28-30.

PRAYER: Precious Father, we desire to be living and contributing members of your body – the church. Show us how to do your will on earth as it is in heaven. Give us the gentle nudges of the Holy Spirit as to which way we are to go and who we are to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Help us to lean into your strength and energy to achieve all you have called us to do. We ask this in the name of our Savior, the head of the church. Amen.