



July 3, 2022

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:24-29 (NLT)

²⁴I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. ²⁵God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. ²⁶This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. ²⁷For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory. ²⁸So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. ²⁹That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

WARM-UP

- What thoughts, ideas, concepts, questions, or other inspiration stood out to you from the message?
- Today we learn that the Colossians were being bombarded with voices from outside the church that were telling them 'secret' ways to 'add to Jesus'. Of course, Jesus can't be added to, but speaking of secrets, does your family have any secret recipes that are guarded secrets that you keep in the family and can't be shared with others? Name a few of those dishes. Why are these recipes top secret?

(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – Paul knows the secret to following Jesus is recognizing that we actually walk with Him!

Verses: Colossians 1:24-29, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 3:16-17

- Read Galatians 2:20. What does it mean when Paul says that Jesus "lives in me"? How would you explain that to a new believer?
- Read Ephesians 3:16-17. What does it mean when Paul says that Jesus will make his home in your hearts as you trust him? What has that looked like in your own life?

Thought #2 – The secret to following Jesus, comes with power!

Verses: Colossians 1:24-29, Colossians 1:28-29, Ephesians 3:16

- Read Colossians 1:28-29. In what ways do you think Paul "struggled so hard" to depend on Christ's power? What does that mean?
- Read Ephesians 3:16. How have you felt the Holy Spirit empower you over the years? OR how have you heard about this power working in the lives of those who have followed Him?

Challenge:

- Ask your group to reflect on the questions that Pastor Kevin posed at the end of the sermon:
 - Who do I know that needs to open the door to Jesus?
 - Who do I know that knows Jesus but hasn't fully given him the keys to their house?
 - Who do I know that is suffering that I can come alongside and be with?
 - Challenge 1: How can you draw closer to the people you have identified in the above questions? What actions could you take to help them?
 - Challenge 2: Make a list of names that your group can be praying for from the above questions. If names need to be kept confidential, simply give

