

### ***Paul's Joy in Suffering for the Church***

*Paul declares, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake" (Colossians 1:24), not because of the pain itself, but because His trials serve a greater purpose: advancing the gospel and strengthening the body of Christ. He sees his suffering as a participation in Christ's redemptive work, filling up remains in Christ's afflictions-not in a way that adds to Christ's finished atonement, but by enduring persecution and hardship on behalf of the Church, the body of Christ.*

#### *The Mystery of Christ in You*

*The core of Paul's mission is the revelation of a once-hidden mystery: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). This truth-God's grace extended to Gentiles through Christ's indwelling presence-is the heart of the gospel. It's not just knowledge, but transformation: Christ living in believers, giving them a sure hope of future glory.*

#### *The Mission: To present everyone mature in Christ*

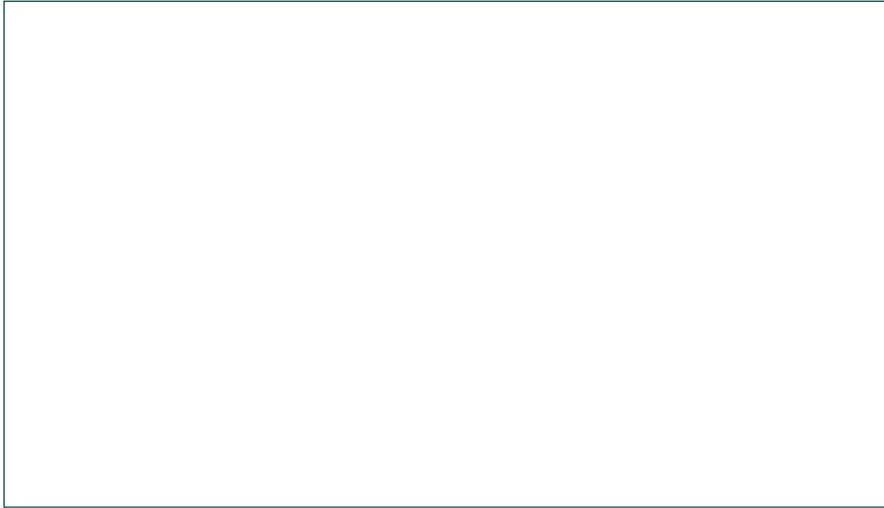
*Paul's labor is driven by divine commission: "to make the word of God fully known" and to "present everyone mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:25, 28). This is not passive teaching with all wisdom. His strength is not his own, but "Christ's mighty power that works within me" (Colossians 1:29), empowering him to persevere.*

*In your own trials, consider: Can you rejoice in suffering for the sake of others, knowing it serves the Church? Let the truth of Christ in you anchor your identity. As you face challenges, remember that your effort is not in vain-God uses your struggles to build up His body. Surrender your strength to Christ, who works powerfully in you, that you may fulfill your calling with purpose and hope.*

***"And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs of Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." Romans 8:17***

## MESSAGE NOTES & VERSES

WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE THIS WEEK TO  
APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED AS A COUPLE?



OUR PRAYERS



THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

*"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with  
all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ."  
Colossians 1:28*

NOTES

