

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

The Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:24-29

Slide 2:

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.

Slide 3:

I. Paul's (Our) Calling

II. Paul's (Our) Confidence

Slide 4:

Calling

"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"

Slide 5:

"Christ's sufferings are for propitiation; our sufferings are for propagation."

Dr. Josef Tson

Slide 6:

The Gospel moves through the Suffering Servant

Slide 7:

Matthew 16:24 (ESV)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Slide 8:

Matthew 10:21-22 (ESV)

Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

Slide 9:

John 16:2 (ESV)

Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

Slide 10:

2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Slide 11:

Philippians 1:29 (ESV)

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.

Slide 12:

2 Timothy 1:8 (ESV)

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God

Slide 13:

Acts 5:41 (ESV)

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Slide 14:

Acts 9:15-16 (ESV)

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Slide 15:

If we can rejoice, not for, but IN our sufferings, we can say, like Paul, that we are filling up in our flesh what was lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Slide 16:

Confidence

"...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.*"

Slide 17:

The Gospel in Two Verses:

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Colossians 1:27 (ESV)

...**Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

Slide 18:

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

Slide 19:

Colossians 3:3 (ESV)

For you have died, and your life is hidden with **Christ in God**.

Slide 20:

Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

For in Christ the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

Slide 21:

Romans 8:38-39 (ESV)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of **God in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Read Colossians 1:24-29. What do you see that confuses you? Excites you? How is God speaking to you through this text?
- 2) Can you explain in your own words Paul's belief that his own suffering was filling up what was lacking in Christ's physical suffering? Can you explain the concept of the Suffering Servant?
- 3) Do you think God has changed His way of moving the Gospel through a Suffering Servant to something more attractive and victorious/prosperous? If so, why do you think that? If not why do we promote that?
- 4) What is the mystery that Paul was giving his life to make known? And why was that mystery so astounding to a grounded and theologically proficient Jew like Paul?
- 5) How does Christ in us, and us in Christ change our view of suffering? How could it give us more confidence to face our world?
- 6) Prayer and praise