

Colossians 1:24-29
Christ's Commission

Announcements:

- Sermon Notes Up On Website
- Valor Shield Raisers Dinner and Fundraiser
- Gideons Video

READ COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

Colossians 1:24

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

- Rejoice in suffering...this is the way of the Kingdom.
- **Philippians 3:10 ... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;**
 - This is how God redeems even the most wicked of the brokenness that is found in this world.
 - When we suffer, whether it be grief, pain, relationship struggles, failure, they all expand our capacity to relate to others and share with others in their suffering.
- **2 Corinthians 1:5 ... For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.**
 - There is no joy without the struggle.
- **We often ask God the question...**
 - **Why are you allowing these things in my life?**
 - Think about all the great stories of the Bible, all the great stories of the past. Every great story is filled with great struggle.
 - We need to trust where Jesus is leading...
 - ****Westin and I went skiing last Saturday. "Stay in my tracks!"**
 - It might look more attractive, but it's going to lead to a dead end.
 - But we have to trust that God is good, and that he knows best.
 - Psalmist, Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
 - **We don't know the path that God is going to use for our Christ-likeness.**

- God knows the end of our story, and he promises that he is going to use us as the Body of Christ to redeem this broken world, but that redemption is going to come through the fire, through the laying down of our lives for others.
- **This is the way of our King, and this is the way of His Kingdom.**
 - ...through the filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.
- Everytime we lay ourselves down on the altar of self-sacrificial love for the responsibilities, mission and callings that God has called us too, the Kingdom of God takes a little bit more ground as it moves from one human heart to another!

Colossians 1:25-27

25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

What is the mystery of God? The mystery hidden from past ages and generations, that has now been revealed to God's Saints. (Holy Ones)

Romans 11:25

25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

- Abrahamic Blessing ... Land, Seed, Blessing
- **"Through You I will bless all the nations of the earth."**

Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

What is the mystery?

- **That, through Christ, God has made a way for all people to enter His family.**
- This was the plan all along, this was the whole point of the Nation Israel, to be the people from which the promised Seed, the promised deliver would come, that would bring all the nations of the earth back into the family of God.

- The mystery was a mystery. It isn't a mystery any more.

Ephesians 1:7-14

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- **Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant, he is the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.**
 - He brought it all to completion.
- **The Jew first and then the Gentile. This was God's predestined plan from the moment sin entered God's good creation.**
 - **Genesis 3:15 - You will strike His heel and He will Crush your head.**

****A Couple Pastoral Words of Caution**

- **Be very leery of any teacher who uses click-bait phrases like "the mystery of..."** They are playing on our weakness to be in the know of things that others aren't. We love gossip. And to know things that no one else does.
 - This is just warmed up left-over Gnosticism.
 - Most sensational end-times propaganda fits this camp.
- **Also be leery of restorationist types that say things like, this doctrine or this understanding of scripture was lost until I in my grand wisdom, and my fantastical exegetical skills have now revealed, that which baffled the church for thousands of years.**
- We want to be rooted in the historical church, in the things that the church has confessed through the ages, the things that were taught to our fathers of the faith.
 - Our faith is an ancient faith. And we stand on the shoulders of those who have wrestled with God.

- Christ is the great mystery hidden from past ages and generations. But He is hidden no more. And now he has called us to simply live in light of the reality that He is Lord of all Creation.

Colossians 1:28

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

- **Because all of this is true, the Mystery of Christ has been revealed**
- **How then shall we live? We Proclaim Christ**
- Why do we proclaim Christ,
 - **Because it is either Christ or Chaos.**
 - This is Paul's heart for the church that they wouldn't live in chaos, that they would change the culture from the chaos of paganism and all other man-centered ideologies, and be found complete in Christ.

1 Timothy 3:14-16

14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; 15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. 16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

**He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.**

- We are the Household of God, the church of the living God, and we have been given the truth of the mystery of Christ.

Who exactly are we to proclaim Christ to?

- To Every Man, because the goal of this whole project is that every last person would be found in Christ.

How exactly are we to proclaim Christ?

By Admonishing and teaching, with all wisdom.

- God's word tells us that Wisdom is the hatred of evil.

- That which is contrary to God's good order and good creation.
- That means that one of the primary ways that we proclaim Christ is by first living rightly ordered lives under the Lordship of Christ and then from that place we teach others to do the same.

To what end? That every man might grow in the likeness of Christ.

If you are looking for an outline of where to start in this process the Holy Spirit give us a great place to start in Acts 2:42-46:

- They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching
- and to fellowship, (Sundays)
- to the breaking of bread (Communion)
- and to prayer.
- And sacrificially committed to Christian community.
 - 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

A brief public service announcement...for our current political climate.

- There are only two paths in this life, Christ or Chaos.
- And this is why we as Christian are willing to lay down our lives for others, so that they might experience Christ and life, and not Chaos and death.
- We as Christians are not trying to get back to a bygone era, we are actually working towards a future where the reality that Jesus is Lord is proclaimed from every human heart.
- Let's spend our days, and our voices and our resources to that endeavor.

Colossians 1:29

29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

- **When we find the end of ourselves we then find the power of God in us.**

- We simply give our lives to Christ, our everyday ordinary lives, every last boring detail of it, and he takes it and multiplies it 1000 fold.
- **This is our commission.**
 - To turn to Christ and give him every last portion of our lives
 - and then in turn to beacon all those near and far to do the same.
 - This is what is worth the sacrifice.
 - This is what is worth waking up every morning for, for the rest of our lives.
 - This is the call of Christ to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel.
- Christ has cut the trail for us, let's keep our feet firmly in the path he has laid before us.