

REJOICE!

CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY.

Col. 1:24 - 2:5

(24) 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 (25) 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, (26) the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. (27) 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. (28) Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (29) For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

(Col.2:1) For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, (2) that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, (3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (4) I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. (5) For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

I. Paul's Suffering Col. 1:24-25

~Paul's Commission Col.1:25

~Just what were Paul's sufferings? 2 Cor. 1:23-28

~Paul's situation in Rome (ACTS 21-28)

II. Paul's Response - Rejoice in the midst of Suffering

~How do you respond to suffering?

~"filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions"?

III. Paul's Ministry - to make known the "mystery" Col.1:26-29

~Dan.2:19-22, 28-30. Who really reveals "mysteries"?

~Eph. 3:1-6 "For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel".

~Colossae was a city made up of Jews and Greeks with much pagan philosophy from the Greeks, and much legalism and "laws" from the Jews. So Wuest says, when Paul uses this word "Mystery" he is making a difference between the heathen mysteries which were strictly confined to a narrow circle of people, or you could purchase for a fee, whereas the Christian mysteries are fully communicated to everyone. There is an intentional paradox in using this image because Paul knew how they might be swayed by other philosophies. The idea of secrecy disappears when Paul uses the word and it signifies simply a truth which was once hidden but now is revealed, a truth which without special revelation would have been unknown. (Harry Reeder taught many times about the difference between general revelation and special revelation which can only come from the Holy Spirit when he regenerates your heart). But the one special mystery that absorbs Paul's thoughts is the free admission of the Gentiles on equal terms to the privileges of the covenant.

Which is why.....

~Paul's Goal - to present every man mature in Christ. Col.1:28-29

~What is warning?

~What is teaching?

2 Tim. 3:17

Eph. 4:13-15

This is what Paul was “toiling” “laboring” or “striving” for in vs.29. Wuest says in the Greek word “labor” is to grow weary and labor to the point of exhaustion. In Greek the word labor or striving was connected to an athlete in his training, and where we get our word ‘agony’. Paul clearly recognizes that he can only do this only in God’s efficient power working in him.

IV. Paul’s continued struggle and his heart for the Colossians Col.2:1-5

~What is a strong church? “Being knit together in love” Col. 2:2a

~Certainty - of understanding Col.2:2

~Clarity - Col.2:2b

~Sarah Ivill says it is remarkable (p35) it was the Holy Spirit that knit his heart with theirs in love. And he rejoiced that even with the threat of false teaching all around them, they were standing firm in their faith and maintaining sound doctrine.

What about you?

Pray for yourself to have the boldness of Paul in proclaiming the gospel - we also have been given a stewardship and are ministers of the gospel

Pray that God would change your perspective of suffering and that you would be able to “rejoice in the midst of them”

**Ladies, we have a rich inheritance NOW and a glorious future home
Shout out from the rooftops “Christ in you, the hope of glory”!**

“And Christ, who became to us wisdom from God, will answer by granting them understanding and knowledge” I Cor. 1:31

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints” Prov. 2: 6-8