

Colossians Part 2 HANDOUT

1.23.22

Paul is saying this: God has been making a way for people to have a relationship with Him. The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus. Jesus is at the center of everything in time and eternity.

Col. 1:24 - 24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Paul is saying that his (Paul's) suffering for Christ's sake was still lacking. Although he had suffered much affliction, Paul was not yet conformed to the Savior in his sufferings.

Col. 1:25-27 - 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- The Greek word *mysterion* speaks to a deeper meaning—it's something previously unknown but God has disclosed it to His people.
- It's not us trying to come to God, it's God living inside of you and me - Christ in you, the hope of glory. It's not Christ and you...it's Christ IN you.
- This doesn't mean that we can just sit back in an easy chair and wait for a big surge of His power. We need to move each and every day in the way He has called us - but we understand that we move in His power. We walk in step with the kingdom plans that He has for us.

Col. 1:28 - 28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

The goal of discipleship is that each Christ follower becomes **complete, mature, perfect** (teleios) in Christ (Col. 1:28) reaching their full earthly potential through Him.

What does that kind of church/ministry look like?

- A passion to follow Christ's example.
- Desire to know/experience God more, worship Him, love and serve Him, and impact the world around them.

- A place where you want to bring others, have fun, build relationships, love and laugh together, feel welcome; while learning about God.
- A group that will mature spiritually through Bible studies, small groups, retreats, relationships, teachable moments, etc.

Col. 1:29 - 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

This is the focus of Paul's life - to be complete, perfect, mature in Christ. Can you say the same thing today? Do you have the same focus as Paul?

Col. 2:1-5 - 1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Even though Paul never met the Colossians (and the Laodiceans—church members from a neighboring town), he wanted them to know he cared about them and their spiritual growth. What is Paul's ultimate goal in the Colossians' maturity? That they would not be deceived by arguments that sounded good but were actually lies.

Look at the key words in vs. 2 and 3:

- Love
- Understanding
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- "Full riches" "Treasures"

Paul's words in this passage remind us of the hope found in the gospel message. In Jesus, we know there's an end to suffering—one day He will return and renew all things. Through Jesus, we've been given understanding to the mystery of God. People of all nations can put their trust in Him and He lives in every believer.

POINT: Our lives reach their fullest potential when Christ is at the center.