

Colossians 1:24–29

<sup>24</sup> I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

<sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

<sup>26</sup> the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

<sup>27</sup> To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

<sup>28</sup> Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

<sup>29</sup> To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

### *The Mystery Revealed Colossians 1:24-29*

INTRO:

There used to be a radio program entitled, "I Love a Mystery." Although I am getting to be an old man, this was really before my time. Still, I must say I love the denouement where all that has been hidden is revealed. This is the Biblical meaning of mystery. That which was hidden in the Old Testament is revealed to us in the New. Paul tells us about the mystery that God had hidden but now was making known.

*I. My Suffering (v. 24-25)*

*II. God's Mystery (v.26-29)*

*I. My Suffering (v. 24-25)*

**Colossians 1:24-25** *I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,"*

A. The ministry can be very painful. For Paul, working for the Lord Jesus to establish churches in a world that hated Christ involved real suffering. He recognized the world at large still hated Christ. They had crucified Him and He arose and was no longer with them to take their abuse. That which they could not dump on Christ alone they now dumped on His ministers and His church.

B. Having been made a servant of the church and of Christ meant that he would receive that suffering because he served Christ and on behalf of the church. This was the price for being faithful to his stewardship to carry out all the Word of God commanded.

C. Satan was so adamant about stopping God's ministers and God's church because God did something remarkable in them.

## ***II. God's Mystery (v.26-29)***

***Colossians 1:26-29*** *The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.*

A. The fulfilling of the Word is the mystery, that which was hidden in the Old Testament and revealed in the New Testament. This mystery was hidden for centuries, but now is revealed. God wants all His saints to understand that He is working among the Gentiles and is working, in people, even Gentiles from the inside out. The fact that Christ is in us is our certainty that one day we will share in God's glory.

1. The Greek here could be translated, "*Christ among you (plural).*" This translation would teach how God plan is to give the Gospel, salvation, and the covenant to Gentiles as well as Jews. This clearly, He was doing.

2. However, this limits the impact of God's working in us from the inside out in His new covenant. Remember the thrust in ***Jeremiah 31:33***;  
***"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."***

3. This covenant will work because God the Son will dwell in us.  
**Romans 8:9-10.** ***"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.***

Our hope of being resurrected and experiencing God's glory is tied to Christ who lives in us. Do you remember Paul's encouragement in **Ephesians 1:13-14**?  
***"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."***

Through the mystery of the Trinity, when the Spirit of God dwells in us, the Spirit of Christ dwells in us also.

B. The fact, that Christ is in us as we are also in Him causes Paul to preach this to all men (Jews and Gentiles alike). **vs.28-29**

***“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”***

1. Christ, the genuine Christ we have just heard about, is the substance of the message we preach. Our message is not principles or ideas. It is the person of the real Christ who is God in human flesh who came to reconcile us to God, to redeem us to Himself, and to give us the forgiveness of sins.

2. Paul did this by *“warning every person”* and *“teaching every person”* in all wisdom. Preaching or proclaiming Christ who is the Gospel involved **both** warning and teaching. First we must warn. We must understand Christ did not come into a world in a neutral position to God. He came into a world directly opposed to its holy creator and in rebellion against Him. We call that sin. Sin is serious. So serious Paul reminded us in **Romans 6:23** ***“The wages of sin is death.”*** Sin cannot be dealt with without someone dying. The Lord Jesus came into the world to die to pay for our sin. We must turn to God. That is the warning.

3. Second we must teach Who Christ is so others will trust Him. We must teach as Paul summed up the Gospel in **1 Corinthians 15:3-4;**

***“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”***

4. The Apostle Paul’s goal and ours should be to present every person to God, complete in Christ. That implies our need to become growing and productive Christians to serve our Lord.

C. Paul labored at this teaching and warning as Christ worked in Him. What kind of effort do we give to the proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ?

D. How much time do we spend building a relationship with the Christ who lives in us?

***Once far from God and dead in sin,  
No light my heart could see;  
But in God's Word the light I found,  
Now Christ liveth in me.***

***Refrain:  
|: Christ liveth in me, :|  
Oh! what a salvation this,  
That Christ liveth in me.***