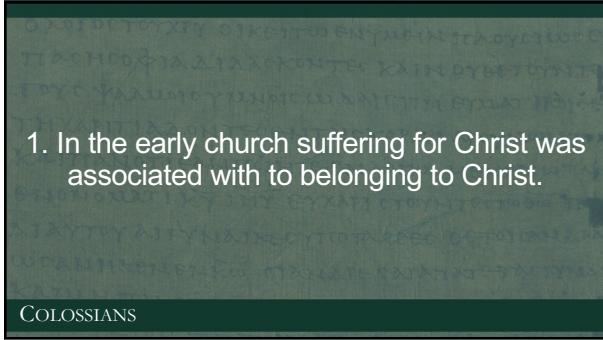
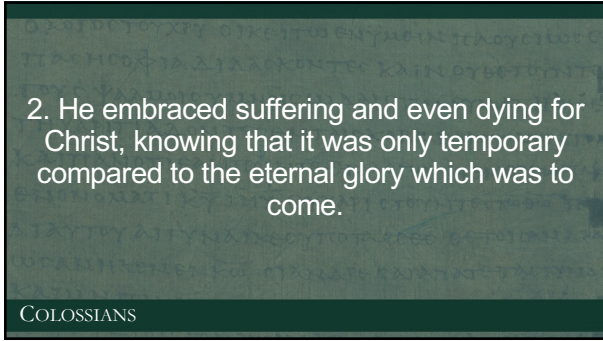


1



2



3

3. He endured tremendous suffering but never forsook Christ. Such perseverance causes immense joy.

COLOSSIANS

4

4. He suffered for the sake of gospel proclamation to the Gentiles.

COLOSSIANS

5

John 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

COLOSSIANS

6

Acts 5:40-41

“and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.”

COLOSSIANS

7

Christians should not strive to be hated but strive to reflect and proclaim Christ. If hatred comes for righteousness, then know that you are in good company with Christ and the Apostles.

COLOSSIANS

8

The book of Acts is primarily about the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem and the Jews to all people, but the joy of gospel proclamation and salvation is also accompanied with great suffering.

COLOSSIANS

9

Acts 15:19-22

COLOSSIANS

10

Paul believes that gospel proclamation is worth risking persecution. He also teaches “regular” Christians that they are not immune to difficulties in this life either.

COLOSSIANS

11

Christians will have tribulations in this life, but our eternity will be free of tribulations.

COLOSSIANS

12

Paul is able to both suffer and rejoice, because he knows that something is being gained that surpasses personal pain.

COLOSSIANS

13

Acts 9:4-5

“And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”

COLOSSIANS

14

When a Christian endures and perseveres through great difficulties, other Christians are strengthened.

COLOSSIANS

15

2 Corinthians 1:3-9

COLOSSIANS

16

Suffering was not a sign of disfavor from God, instead it was treated as a regular part of the Christian journey that they were to endure, and were to strengthen and comfort one another when they suffered.

COLOSSIANS

17

Galatians 2:7-9

COLOSSIANS

18

What is the mystery that was hidden but has now been made known?

COLOSSIANS

19

Ephesians 3:1-11

COLOSSIANS

20

Galatians 3:7-9

COLOSSIANS

21

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

COLOSSIANS

22

Acts 2:7-11

COLOSSIANS

23

Acts 9:15-16

“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.”

COLOSSIANS

24

Acts 11:15-18

COLOSSIANS

25

Revelation 20:3

“and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer”

COLOSSIANS

26

Are you more prone to evangelize or disciple?

COLOSSIANS

27

How will Paul present everyone mature in Christ?

COLOSSIANS

28

With toil and struggle.

COLOSSIANS

29

Series: Colossians

Sermon: Colossians 1:24-29

1. Christians do not universally suffer to the same degree for proclaiming and representing Christ. Even Paul experienced a variety of acceptance and persecution. Much depends on the country that you are in and the culture that surrounds you.

Sometimes we are blind to the suffering that still goes on today among those who proclaim Christ and represent him well in communities who are hostile to the gospel. A. Do you think that the people where you work and live accept you fully as a Christian, or would you suffer if you made your beliefs increasingly known?

B. Where might some areas of more extreme hostility be found in our surrounding community?

2. Do you believe that we sometimes confuse our cultures tolerance of Christians with the silence of Christians?

3. Colossians 1:24 has been wrongly interpreted to promote the false belief that believers are to add to

the works of Christ in order to be saved. Scripture is best interpreted with scripture. When a passage is difficult, it is best to use other passages that speak more clearly to help see the passage correctly. In light of these passages, would Paul be teaching that we are required to add to the afflictions of Christ in order to be saved?

- A. Colossians 1:13-14 _____**
- B. Hebrews 10:11-13 _____**
- C. John 19:30 _____**
- D. Matt. 26:28 _____**

4. Being identified with Christ can certainly cause others to dislike, ostracize, or even hate you. Was Paul persecuted before or after he became a Christian? _____ From the outside looking in, was Paul's life easier and more comfortable before or after he became a Christian? _____ Did Paul still consider the pain worth it? Read Romans 8:17-18. How does Paul's example of suffering and perseverance benefit you?

5. In light of some of the other passages from today's sermon regarding suffering, enduring, and hope, what truths can be gleaned from this passage, 2 Cor. 4:7-18?
