

HOME CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. "So much of contemporary life is designed to save us time, energy, pain, and effort. That means we miss out on deep things that only come through time, energy, pain, and effort." When have I avoided something difficult and regretted not pushing through?
2. What enabled Paul to persevere and even rejoice in his suffering? Why do we find it difficult to feel the same way?
3. What part does God play in preaching the gospel, and what part do his servants play? How should this change how I think about sharing Jesus?
4. What keeps 28-29 from being boring drudgery?
5. Paul can't stop talking about King Jesus. In 28-29 he tells the Colossians his goal of bringing as many people as possible to mature Christian living "in the King" "in Christ". Does this change my view of Christ? How?
6. "Christ in you, the hope of glory." What excites me about this summary of the gospel message and how we benefit from it?
7. Paul "admonishes and teaches" them. How should we do this for each other effectively, recognizing we are all weak and sinful? What makes a talk, sermon, Bible study an effective teaching experience, rather than simply sharing of information/knowledge?

PRAYER:

JUNE 14, 2020

COLOSSIANS

SUSTAINING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY | 1:24-29

The New Testament calls us into community with others. This community is sustained by something other than common interests, a deep need we are awakened to that challenges us to grow as no other self-selected community can. In the story for this Sunday we see someone who wanted to crush the church, turned into someone who will suffer and even die to see this alternative community grow. You were made to belong to this many-voiced, mysterious community of many people. Join us as we step into this ancient light.

Colossians 1:24-29 (CEB)

Paul's service for the church

24 Now I'm happy to be suffering for you. I'm completing what is missing from Christ's sufferings with my own body. I'm doing this for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I became a servant of the church by God's commission, which was given to me for you, in order to complete God's word. 26 I'm completing it with a secret plan that has been hidden for ages and generations but which has now been revealed to his holy people. 27 God wanted to make the glorious riches of this secret plan known among the Gentiles, which is Christ living in you, the hope of glory. 28 This is what we preach as we warn and teach every person with all wisdom so that we might present each one mature in Christ. 29 I work hard and struggle for this goal with his energy, which works in me powerfully.

THE OLD TREE AND THE SAPLING

TEACHING THE TEXT

COLOSSIANS 1:24 The "Afflictions of Christ" Serve and Suffer. Joy?

"True spiritual perfection involves seeking the highest good for the community, and not the self alone. IF the problem is an 'individualistic transcendent-ascetic philosophy,' Paul lectures them about an 'incarnational ecclesio-centric philosophy.' Their obsession with (and against) the physical body (2:23) has turned their attention away from (and therefore against) the church body" (Nijay Gupta, 67).

COLOSSIANS 1:25

His work is stewardship of the house of God - the church.

COLOSSIANS 1:26-27 "Christ In You" "Hope of Glory"

"But there are other kinds of secrets which are only meant to be kept under wraps for a specific period. After that point, those who can't keep a secret work to your advantage! You want the secret to spread far and wide. That is the idea behind big product launches or the next obsessively anticipated installment of a blockbuster movie franchise" (Meynell, 64).

"For when Christ looks at each of us, he does not simply say, "Mine!," he also says, "Home!"

COLOSSIANS 1:28-29 The Slog of Ministry

"...The symbol of the cross of Christ represents, for Paul, a destabilization of the worldly value system and the framework for a new mode of living" (Nijay Gupta, Colossians, 80).

OUR STOP TODAY