

## **Rejoicing in Suffering**

### **Colossians 1:24-29**

Paul in prison writes to Colossians declaring the Deity & All-Sufficiency of Jesus Christ--Countering the false philosophies infiltrating the church--**cult of higher thought & mysticism**—**worship of angels as intermediaries to God**--legalistic asceticism (**severe treatment of body**) as superior way to God. So Paul declares it is Jesus Christ & Him alone that is all you need for life & Godliness--all the other religious systems are false & will lead you astray.

*24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.*

*Now* a word that looks back over God's dealings w/ Paul & Christ's work of salvation. Paul suffered greatly for the gospel as he writes from prison, severely persecuted Christ sake & the church.

All the while rejoicing over the believers in Colossae. His life an example of **'all who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution'** Jesus the supreme example *Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'*

Paul at one point said *Gal 4:19 My children, with whom I am again in labor/travail/anguish until Christ is formed in you*—**Travail** a term for child birth, what a mother endures for the life of her child. Paul says that's the pain I have for you.

*I do my share*—I don't avoid the difficulties of ministry, but do what's needed *in filling up* suffering of Jesus, He left to us-*lacking*. We carry on the ministry of Christ. **He was tempted in all ways as we are yet w/o sin** setting the example, now we are tempted & endure. Jesus on the cross said **it is finished**, the work of salvation, overcoming the devil, He reconciled us, brought us in, now we do what He did, **ministry of reconciliation 2Cor 5:18**.

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The *lacking* is not on His part but ours--the fact He is in heaven & not walking on earth ministering but now He has given that to us. So we continue His ministry of reconciliation & the suffering that comes w/ it...*all who live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2Tim 3:12* We bear up under what Jesus Himself endured for the salvation of others. Paul is saying *in my own body I continue the suffering of Christ for his body, the church.* Paul in his suffering declared power is perfected in weakness 2Cor 12:9.

*25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,*

*Made a minister diakonos-servant* drafted by the Lord on road to Damascus *Acts 9:1-6; 13-16*

*Steward* administrator, manager, one who oversees, takes care of what is not his but another person owns.

A minister is a servant not a celebrity. *Greatest in kingdom of God is servant of all.* Jesus *Jn 13:4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. then went to cross.* Paul a minister for the benefit of t church not for himself-interruptions, inconveniences, abuses, *2Cor 6:3-10*

*Fully carried out* fulfilled, not shrink back *Acts 20:18 You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 18 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.....26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.*

*26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

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*Mystery* sacred secret something hidden now revealed *Christ in you*....

To know the *riches of the glory* of this mystery. To Gentiles, non Jews & all who trust Christ for salvation are now given privilege to participate in all the promises of the bible. Begins w/ Christ in you....born again of the Spirit.

***Eph 6:16b For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.***

***Jn 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.....23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.***

***1Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.***

***2Cor 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; We are Clay pots w/ light of Christ in us got to crack the pot to shine the light.***

***Hope of glory***—a living hope Christ raised from the dead **1Pet 1:3 1Jn 3:2**  
***Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.***

Another *mystery* Jews & Gentiles one--Prior to Christ there was animosity, hatred, bigotry saying Gentiles '*fodder for the fires of hell*' Samaritan woman ***Jews have no dealings Jn 4:9 nothing to do w/ Jews.***

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**Peter Acts 10:28** “You know that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with or befriend a Gentile, or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I am not to call anyone unholy or unclean. AMP

**Eph 2:14** For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

**28** And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ. **29** And for this purpose also I labor striving according to His power which mightily works w/in me

**Proclaiming-preach-openly declare** Christ – Col 1:13-23...Jesus  
reconciliation humanity & nature

**Rom 8:19** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

**Admonish**-wise words in a culture gone mad, woke, bizarre mindsets, sinners making rules opposed to God---a world ripe for judgment

**Wisdom** the application of knowledge guided by understanding Bezael **Ex 31:3** “And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, **Pr 8:11** “For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things can not compare with her.; **16:16** How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver. **Ja 3:17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. **18** And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Only God given **Eph 1:17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. Present complete in Christ-Perfect, fully mature—**Goal of Church & ministry—what a leader strives for—stretches themselves out for.**