

Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians Lesson 7

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I fill up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions in my flesh, on behalf of His body, which is the church, of which I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God given to me for you, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 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. Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose I also labor, striving according to His working, which He works in me in power.

--Colossians 1:24-29

Day 1 – Verse 24

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I fill up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions in my flesh, on behalf of His body, which is the church, --Colossians 1:24

1. What were Paul's sufferings at this time? Why could Paul rejoice in his sufferings?

2. What did Paul mean, "I fill up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions in my flesh, on behalf of His body, which is the church?"

3. Is there anything lacking in the work of Christ on our behalf?

4. Where does a Christian's joy come from?

5. What should our attitude be when we serve others?

a. What is the connection between joy and humility?

b. What is the connection between joy and our circumstances?

6. How does our suffering benefit the Church?

Heart check:

- Do you rejoice in serving the body or do you serve grudgingly?
- If you serve with wrong motives, what will you do to change your attitude?
- Are you willing to suffer for the sake of the body of Christ?

Day 2 – Verse 25

*of which I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God given to me for you, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,
--Colossians 1:25*

1. According to this verse, what was the stewardship given to Paul by God?
 - a. Of all the tasks Paul was commissioned with, what was his primary task?
 - b. Who was ministry primarily to? See Acts 9:15, 22:21 and 26:17-18.
2. How does Paul's conversion and calling to ministry demonstrate the sovereignty of God?
3. Define stewardship (oikonomia). Give a practical example of a steward.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 9:16-17. How serious was Paul about the stewardship that he had been entrusted with?

5. Why are we given spiritual gifts?

6. Why are we tempted towards discontentment with the gifts that God has given to us?

7. Does God only use those with large, public ministries to accomplish His purposes?

a. Does this encourage you as you seek to be faithful where God has placed with the gifts that He has given to you?

b. Are there any small acts of service in the kingdom of God?

Heart Check:

- Paul’s letters are so personal. How does knowing that God cares for you through the ministry of His under-shepherd faithfully preaching and teaching you the Word bring you comfort?
- All those who are called to be pastors/elders in the church have been called by God and should be able to echo Paul's words here about the seriousness of that calling. How often do you pray for our pastors? Encourage them?
- Paul was laser-focused on his task to preach the word of God. Do you know what God has called you to in serving Him and serving His body? Are you laser-focused on your task to serve Him? Why or why not?

Day 3 – Verses 26-27

that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 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. --Colossians 1:26-27

1. What is the mystery that was hidden for ages?
2. When and how was this mystery revealed to God's saints?

3. To whom did God chose to make known the glory of the mystery?

4. Why was the riches of the mystery great among the Gentiles?

a. How does Ephesians 3:1-9 parallel this passage?

5. How does the Gentiles knowing the mystery a fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant?
See Genesis 12: 3 and 15:4-5.

6. How is Christ in us our hope of glory?

Day 4 – Verse 28

Him we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. --Colossians 1:28

1. What are we warning everyone about?
2. How do we proclaim Him?
3. What are we proclaiming about Him?
4. What is the purpose of warning and teaching everyone?
5. Define admonishing (noutheteō).

- a. Do you faithfully admonish others and see it as a gift when you receive it?
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- 6. What does it look like to warn and teach with all wisdom?
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- 7. Read Ephesians 4:11-13. What does it mean to be complete in Christ?

Day 5 – Verse 29

For this purpose I also labor, striving according to His working, which He works in me in power. --Colossians 1:29

- 1. Define and give an example of the word labour.
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- 2. How is God working within Paul?

3. The word striving shares the same root as agonize. What does this tell you about how hard Paul laboured in ministry?

4. How do we strive? Is it our own effort and power?

5. How does our weakness benefit us? Does our weakness ever preclude us from working for God?

6. Our world tells us that “me time” is essential and that self-fulfillment is the greatest goal. How does this passage contradict that message?

7. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-13. What does this verse add to your understanding of verse 29?

Heart Check:

- How diligently do you labour in ministry?

Dig Deeper:

What do these verses tell us about how we should use the spiritual gifts that God has given us?

- a. Mark 10:45
- b. 2 Corinthians 9:7
- c. Philippians 2:3-4
- d. Colossians 3:23-24
- e. 1 Peter 4:10
- f. Hebrews 13:16
- g. 1 John 3:18

A lesson on suffering

1. According to Acts 9:16, what was the reason for Paul's suffering?
2. What other examples do we have in Scripture of men who suffered for the sake of the Gospel?
3. What do the following verses teach us about our Lord's suffering:
 - a. Hebrews 2:18
 - b. Hebrews 5:8
 - c. 1 Peter 2:23
 - d. Hebrews 13:12
4. What do we learn about the believers' suffering from the following passages:
 - a. Philippians 1:29-30
 - b. 1 Peter 2:19-21
 - c. 2 Timothy 1:8
 - d. 2 Timothy 3:12
 - e. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

5. What do the following verses teach us about the suffering of those who have gone before us:

a. James 5:10

b. Matthew 5:12

c. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16

d. Acts 7:52