

# Christ Over All

## A study in Colossians

Revealing the Mystery  
Colossians 1:24-29  
June 9, 2024

...the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. - Colossians 1:26

### I. ALL FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

- Paul has suffered on behalf of the church. God called him to apostolic ministry and he will now steward that call at all costs (Vs. 25; Acts 9:15-16; 2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Tim. 1:12-13).
- Paul's sufferings were very real. They included the present imprisonment he is suffering as he writes to the Colossians (2 Cor. 11:16-33; Gal. 6:17).
- Paul is not implying that Christ's atoning work on the cross was insufficient. He means that his sufferings on behalf of Christ's church is filling up Paul's "lacking" in his sufferings for the sake of Christ's name (Rom. 8:16-17; Phil. 3:10-11).

### II. CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

- One of the great mysteries of the new covenant in Christ, hidden for ages and generations, is the inclusion of the Gentiles into the body of Christ (Deut. 29:29; Isa. 49:6; 2 Cor. 3:14; Eph. 3:1-6; 1 Peter 1:10).
- Another aspect of this mystery is the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ in all believers (Jer. 31:31-34; Gal. 6:16; Eph. 1:13-14).
- Our only hope of glory lies in the Person and work of Jesus Christ (Vs. 27; John 3:18; Acts 4:12; 1 Thess. 1:10).

### III. PERFECT IN CHRIST

- The goal for the church and its people is maturity...perfection. Paul proclaims and warns, teaches and admonishes, toils and suffers—strengthened by Christ's power to bring this goal to its end (Vss. 28-29; 2 Cor. 4:7-12).

**KNOW:** Paul's ministry has been one of suffering, teaching, warning, and working hard for the proclamation of the gospel to all people, but particularly to the Gentiles. He is revealing a mystery hidden until his day. It is worth all his toil and pressing labor.

**DO:** Know the mystery. Become "perfect" in Christ.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Radical Disciple: Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling* by John R.W. Stott (Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

#### For Children:

*Everything a Child Should Know About God* by Kenneth Taylor (Available in the LifePoint Children's Library)

**Next Week's Preaching Text:** Colossians 2:1-7

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please Read Colossians 1:24-29

1. What is Paul doing on behalf of Christ's church? Why is he doing it?
2. How does Paul go about accomplishing this task? (see primarily verses 28-29).
3. What is "lacking" in Christ's afflictions? What is Paul talking about here?
4. How might we "fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions" in our own lives?
5. What is the great mystery hidden for ages past? Why is it good news that we live on this side of the cross?
6. How will you live your life in Christ knowing these things?