



In Him in You (Colossians 1:24-29)

PART IV (Christ in You, the Hope of Glory)

To this End....

“I now **rejoice in my sufferings** for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, **of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God** which was given to me for you, **to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden** from ages and from generations, **but now has been revealed** to His saints. **To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles:** which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Him we preach, **warning** every man and **teaching** every man in all wisdom, **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus**. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” Colossians 1:24-29 NKJV

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☑ *“I now **rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh** what is **lacking in the afflictions of Christ**, for the sake of His **body, which is the church,**” Colossians 1:24 NKJV*

☑ I rejoice in my sufferings for you...

☑ If we look at Paul’s journey from his road to Damascus experience in Acts 9, to his present situation as he awaits trial in Rome (near the end of his life), it was fraught with pain, suffer, persecution and heartache.

☑ Undoubtedly Paul understood this as part of His journey, and more so, part of every believers journey.

☑ One sample: hard to imagine, but this says it all!

☑ *“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul** and dragged him out of the city, **supposing him to be dead**. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And **the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe**. And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many **disciples**, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, **“We must through***

*many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”” Acts
14:19-22 NKJV*

- ☑ Paul was stoned to near death...get's up, goes into the next city, and continues preaching and disciple-making.
- ☑ To the Colossians he says, “I rejoice in my sufferings for you!”
- ☑ **I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ**
- ☑ We know that there was absolutely NOTHING lacking in the afflictions of Christs...He was tortured beyond measure. He was perfect, sinless, innocent, and quite literally the ONLY MAN who ever lived who DID NOT deserve such. But He was made perfect in His suffering.
- ☑ *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make **the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**” Hebrews 2:10 NKJV*
- ☑ So, not only was His suffering complete—but it was endured in order to swap His innocence for our sins.
- ☑ *“For when we were still without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet **perhaps for a good man someone***

*would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, **in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***” Romans 5:6-8 NKJV

☑ So there was NOTHING lacking in Christ’s suffering, but Paul says this to make a point. Maybe He even wants to impart a mission. We too must be willing to die. For what? For whom?

☑ **I do it for your sake (His body, the church)**

☑ Do it for the Body of Christ, the church. Christ died for the church, His bride, and you must also be willing to die. Here is a perfect example:

☑ *“**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother***

and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” Ephesians 5:25-33 NKJV

☑ “of which I became a **minister** according to the **stewardship** from God which was given to me for you, **to fulfill the word of God,**” Colossians 1:25 NKJV

☑ **I am a minister of this... Why?**

☑ What type of minister?

☑ “Therefore, from now on, **we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh,** yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;** old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now **all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ,** and has **given us the ministry of reconciliation,** that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,** not imputing their trespasses to them, **and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.** Now **then,**

we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:16-21

NKJV

- ☑ Paul really has grown to have no regard for what humans think about anything.
- ☑ He only cares about God's opinion.
- ☑ Here's the bottom line:
 - ☑ Man was made new because of the reconciling work of Christ.
 - ☑ Christ has passed on the reconciliation ministry to us.
 - ☑ In other words, God reconciled the world through Christ and Christ gave us the ministry to reconcile the world to Him.
 - ☑ We are to be ambassadors, sent out and commissioned in a foreign land, to act under His authority, and to copy His ministry, as if He is the One doing it! We are ministers of reconciliation!
- ☑ **The stewardship from God which was given to me**
 - ☑ What responsibilities do stewards have?

- ☑ *“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”* 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ When you are assigned to steward the work and property of another, you must be as faithful as if you are the owner.
- ☑ In this case, what we are stewarding are the mysteries of God! Believers have the keys to unlock the mysteries.
- ☑ A taste of the Mysteries!
- ☑ *“And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” He answered and said to them, “Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given.”* Matthew 13:10-11 NKJV
- ☑ *“And **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* Matthew 16:19 NKJV
- ☑ *“However, **we speak wisdom among those who are mature**, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the*

rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” 1 Corinthians 2:6-8
NKJV

☑ **To fulfill the word of God**

☑ This is Paul’s calling and ours too! Abide in His Word.
By this we know we are actually in Him.

☑ “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**”
John 8:31 NKJV

☑ “But whoever **keeps His word**, truly the love of God is perfected in him. **By this we know that we are in Him.** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” 1 John 2:5-6 NKJV

☑ Not in Him—don’t abide in His Word!

☑ “Whoever transgresses and **does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both** the Father and the Son. If **anyone** comes to you and **does not bring this**

doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;" II John 1:9-10 NKJV

☑ *"the **mystery** which has been **hidden** from ages and from generations, but now has been **revealed** to His saints."*
Colossians 1:26 NKJV

☑ **The hidden Mystery—hidden from everyone in the past until right now—being revealed to His Saints...**

☑ What is the hidden mystery that Paul wishes to reveal here? It has been hidden from every generation until now, and it is being revealed to only certain people.

☑ Who? His saints! Who is that? Samples:

☑ *"**To the church** of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" I Corinthians 1:2 NKJV*

☑ *"**To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ** who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Colossians 1:2 NKJV*

☑ *"Now, therefore, **you are no longer strangers** and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints** and*

members of the household of God,” Ephesians 2:19

NKJV

- ☑ You are saints, no longer sinners: *“Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” Romans 5:1 NKJV*

- ☑ *“To **them** God willed to make **known** what are the riches of the glory of this **mystery among the Gentiles**: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” Colossians 1:27 NKJV*

- ☑ **To them, to whom?**

- ☑ To His Saints...

- ☑ **What?**

- ☑ God will to make known something....

- ☑ **What does He now want His saints to know?**

- ☑ The riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles

- ☑ **Which is that precisely?**

- ☑ Christ in you, the hope of glory!

- ☑ What does this mean? Is it accurate to say that it was a mystery that the Jewish Messiah was also meant for the Gentiles? Is that the great mystery now being uncovered?

- ☑ I think we can say unequivocally—NO!

- ☑ Why? Because it was well known from ancient times and at the present (first century time) that the Christ was for the Gentiles too!”
- ☑ **Prophecy:** it was clearly prophesied that the light and justice was for the Gentiles as well!
- ☑ *...**In Galilee of the Gentiles.** The people who walked in darkness **Have seen a great light;** Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, **Upon them a light has shined.***” Isaiah 9:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ *“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; **He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.**”* Isaiah 42:1 NKJV
- ☑ **First Century:** the Jews were evangelizing as part of their calling to bring light and justice to the Gentiles (albeit not so effectively).
- ☑ *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For **you travel land and sea to win one proselyte,** and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.”* Matthew 23:15 NKJV
- ☑ **So what exactly was the mystery among the Gentiles?**
- ☑ Christ in you, the hope of glory! That must mean something more than just introducing the Gentiles to a savior. It does!

☑ *“Him **we preach**, **warning** every man and **teaching** every man in all wisdom, that we may **present every man perfect** in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:28 NKJV*

☑ **Him we preach...Him who? And what about?**

☑ We preach Christ in you—the born again experience
(Evangelism: the Gospel of Salvation)

☑ We preach the hope of glory—becoming like Christ
(Discipleship: the Gospel of the Kingdom)

☑ Pointing at Christ, John said... *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* Matthew 3:2 NKJV

☑ Pointing within, Christ said... *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* Matthew 4:17 NKJV

☑ Christ is the perfect manifestation of God in man, and it is about to be available to mankind!

☑ **The hope of glory...What about the hope of glory do we preach?**

☑ We warn every man... you cannot stay the same. You cannot say you are a Christian and live like a Gentile!

☑ We teach every man... you must move past your born again experience and move on in discipleship, inching ever closer to the image of Christ!

- ☑ *“But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:18 NKJV*
- ☑ **To what end?**
- ☑ **That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus!**
- ☑ We can't stop at redemption—we must move onto perfection.
- ☑ *“**For though by this time you ought to be** teachers, you need someone to **teach you again** the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But **solid food belongs to those who are of full age**, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”(Hebrews 5:12-14) “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal*

*judgment. **And this we will do if God permits.***

Hebrews 6:1-3 NKJV

- ☑ God does permit, in His perfect timing!
- ☑ *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but **we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**”* I John 3:1-3 NKJV
- ☑ We all become children of God through Christ— instantly at our born again moment. *“But as many as received Him, to them **He gave the right to become children of God**, to those who believe in His name:”* John 1:12 NKJV
- ☑ But that is not the same as *“**we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him.**”*
- ☑ *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared **with the glory which shall be revealed in us**. For the earnest expectation of*

*the creation **eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.***” Romans 8:18-19 NKJV

- ☑ This revealing of the Sons is a future prophetic moment, a bar Mitzvah, at the final Passover, when the full glory of God is revealed in mankind.
 - ☑ Then the Kindom of Heaven, the fullness of God will manifest in man!
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- ☑ ***“To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”*** Colossians 1:29 NKJV
 - ☑ **To this end...**
 - ☑ I labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. This is the whole of my work, Paul says.
 - ☑ God is working in me with His power (His grace), so I can complete my ministry.
 - ☑ That ministry will not be complete until you all understand the mystery of the Gentiles... *“That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus—Christ in you the hope of glory!”*

NEXT TEACHING

First THIS then THAT (Colossians 2:1-10)