



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

August 20 – Colossians 1:24-29

Section 1: Introduction

This week we're exploring Colossians 1:24-29.

As we uncover this passage, we'll move from Paul's theological convictions about Jesus and his redeeming work on the cross (Colossians 1:15-23) to some of Paul's ministerial convictions.

In these verses, Paul reveals his deep commitment and sacrificial attitude towards the church, as he endures suffering for the sake of Christ. We need to remember that the book of Colossians is a letter written by Paul to a real group of Christians who lived in a real place at a real time in history. Because of this, it's no surprise then to see Paul's heart and burden for these believers put on display.

So, as we investigate, listen to the Lord, and read this passage about Paul's life and ministry and purpose, we'll discover a deeper understanding of our own roles in sharing the gospel and becoming mature disciples of Christ.

Read Colossians 1:15-23 (for context).

Then, read Colossians 1:24-29.

Section 2: Walk slowly through the passage

Verse 24:

1. What does Paul say he rejoices in according to this verse? What does he mean?
2. What does this verse reveal about Paul's attitude towards his suffering for the sake of the Colossian believers?

Verse 25:

1. According to Paul, what is his role regarding the church?
2. What is the "stewardship" that God has given to Paul?

Verse 26:

1. What does Paul mean by the "mystery hidden for ages and generations"?
2. How do the following Scriptures clarify this "mystery" (that *isn't* so mysterious)?
 - Read Ephesians 1:7-10. Write your thoughts below.
 - Read Ephesians 3:4-9. Write your thoughts below.
 - Read Romans 16:25-27. Write your thoughts below.
 - Read 1 Timothy 3:16. Write your thoughts below.

Verse 27:

1. How does this verse expound upon this "mystery" that Paul refers to in verse 26?
2. According to Paul, what are the "the glorious riches of this mystery?"

Verse 28:

1. What is Paul's primary goal in his ministry?
2. What methods does Paul use to accomplish this goal?

Verse 29:

1. What is the source of Paul's energy and power in ministry?
2. How does Paul describe his labor in serving the Colossians?

Section 3: Reflection questions

- Where do you see alignment with Paul in how you pursue Jesus and pursue ministry? Where do you see misalignment? Is God inviting you into *more* alignment? How so?

- Reflecting on the "mystery" mentioned in verses 26-27, do you fully grasp the profound truth of Christ in you, the hope of glory? How might this reality shape your identity and impact the way you live and relate to others?

- Consider Paul's stated goal in verse 28—to present everyone mature in Christ. How are you intentionally investing in the growth and spiritual development of others? What steps can you take to more effectively fulfill this goal in your relationships and spheres of influence?

- Verse 29 speaks of the energy and power of Christ at work in Paul. How are you relying on Christ's strength and seeking His guidance in your own ministry and endeavors? How can you cultivate a greater dependence on His power rather than relying solely on your own efforts?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 1:24-29, write out a prayer in response to what you've read or use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

[Sample prayer]

Heavenly Father,

I am humbled by the example of the Apostle Paul and the truths revealed in Colossians 1:24-29. Like him, help me to rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that they are opportunities to participate in the work of Christ. Help me to steward the ministries and responsibilities you have entrusted me with, recognizing the weight and significance of serving you. Illuminate the mystery of Christ within me, that I may fully grasp the hope of glory and live in the power of his indwelling presence. Guide me in all my efforts to present others mature in Christ, relying not on my own strength but on the energy and power you provide.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 1:24-29 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 1:24-29 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize Colossians 1:28 using various techniques such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.