

“Giving The Lord Preeminence”

Part 3

October 15, 2023

Scripture Text: Colossians 1:24-29 ESV ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

VERSE 24 *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,*

When Paul committed his life to Christ, he understood that suffering was going to be a byproduct of the relationship with Christ. He wrote to believers in **2 Corinthians 4:7-10** *We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.*

The hope that we have in our suffering is the fact that we have not been singled out or forsaken but there is painful purpose. Paul knew that he didn't deserve the forgiveness and mercy that Christ bestowed upon him. He realized that he deserve worst because he persecuted the followers of Christ and caused their death.

If suffering has a purpose, then there is reason to believe that good things will come out of what doesn't seem good. We know that God has a purpose for leaving us on earth in a terribly broken world that we may manifest the fruit of the Spirit (LOVE, JOY, PEACE, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

Philippians 2:13 *For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

So, we can rejoice in our sufferings because it is about living to glorify the Lord with the hope of eternal life and a new body! Hallelujah!

VERSE 25 *of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,*

Paul did not make himself a minister; the Lord made him a minister of God's amazing grace. It took a fall from his horse, blindness and a time in Arabia seeking direction. The very thing that he had purposed to destroy became his passion to expand and build for the glory of God! He would risk all for

the sake of delivering the Truth of God's word as it was revealed to him by revelation.

VERSE 26 *the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.*

The purpose of God's Will was often hidden from the spirit of man. It is a truth that can only be known by revelation and not by intuition. **1 Corinthians 2:8-11** *8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" —10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

Now it can be known, because it **has been revealed to His saints by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 3:6** *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!*

.....**TO BE CONTINUED Next Week!**