

YOUTH CHURCH

COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:3

This morning we are continuing our series in Colossians. Last week, while looking at Colossians 1:15-23, we talked about how we can have confidence that God is in control of everything. This morning we are looking at Colossians 1:24-2:3.

TASK 1: HAVE A THINK...

Think back to the last time you told someone about Jesus/ your faith/that you go to church. How did that go? Was it easy/hard? Did the person respond well? Do you find it easy to talk about Jesus in school?

40ACTS CHALLENGE?

Last week, we challenged you to the 40acts during lent! How did you get on? Was it easy? What sort of things did you do as your daily act of kindness?

TASK 2: BIBLE STUDY

WHAT IS THE KEY VERSE?

WHAT ARE THE REPEATED WORDS?

WHAT SURPRISES YOU?

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH?

WHAT IS PAUL'S MAIN POINT IN THIS PASSAGE?

HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE APPLY TO YOUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN?

COLOSSIANS 1:24–2:3

PAUL'S LABOR FOR THE CHURCH

24 NOW I REJOICE IN WHAT I AM SUFFERING FOR YOU, AND I FILL UP
IN MY FLESH WHAT IS STILL LACKING IN REGARD TO CHRIST'S
AFFLICTIONS, FOR THE SAKE OF HIS BODY, WHICH IS THE CHURCH.

25 I HAVE BECOME ITS SERVANT BY THE COMMISSION GOD GAVE
ME TO PRESENT TO YOU THE WORD OF GOD IN ITS FULLNESS—

26 THE MYSTERY THAT HAS BEEN KEPT HIDDEN FOR AGES AND
GENERATIONS, BUT IS NOW DISCLOSED TO THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

27 TO THEM GOD HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE
GENTILES THE GLORIOUS RICHES OF THIS MYSTERY, WHICH IS
CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY.

28 HE IS THE ONE WE PROCLAIM, ADMONISHING AND TEACHING
EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT

EVERYONE FULLY MATURE IN CHRIST. 29 TO THIS END I
STRENUOUSLY CONTEND WITH ALL THE ENERGY CHRIST SO
POWERFULLY WORKS IN ME.

2 I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW HARD I AM CONTENDING FOR YOU
AND FOR THOSE AT LAODICEA, AND FOR ALL WHO HAVE NOT MET
ME PERSONALLY. 2 MY GOAL IS THAT THEY MAY BE ENCOURAGED IN
HEART AND UNITED IN LOVE, SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE THE FULL
RICHES OF COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING, IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY
KNOW THE MYSTERY OF GOD, NAMELY, CHRIST, 3 IN WHOM ARE
HIDDEN ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE.

Feel free to write down some notes here from the passage,
anything that sticks out to you or any questions you have!

SOME THOUGHTS

In the verses we read last week, Paul talked about becoming a servant and proclaiming the Gospel (Colossians 1:23). In the verses we read this morning, he expands what he meant by this. He is describing how he is a servant of Christ's body, the same body he tried to destroy many times before until he met with Jesus. You can read more about Paul's conversion in Acts 9, Paul, who was previously Saul, was killing Christians prior to encountering Jesus. Paul is telling us that Christ is so closely bonded up with the church that when the church is persecuted so is Christ. When the church is at work, Christ is at work (Verse 24). Paul is discussing his commission to serve, but when we think commissions, often with that comes privilege. Despite there being a great work to do, it often entails great prestige. This was not the case for Paul, his commission barely brought him any respect at all, in fact, he went from being a highly respectable Pharisee to the lowest of the low. But he says in verse 25, this commission came from God himself, he realised he had no authority of his own, but rather, he had to be faithful to God.

Paul went through a lot of suffering for the Gospel. But if you remember back to when we were looking through Philippians, Paul's response to suffering is quite different to how we would expect. His response is to rejoice in suffering, to him it was worth the price for the joy and honour of his commission from God.

Proclaim to all...Paul proclaimed to all people he met (verse 28)

At all times...it is not just people outside of the church that need the news about Christ, people within it desperately need it too. There is no graduation in Christian life, we will always need to hear Christ's teaching.

With God's wisdom...teaching about God is a massive task which is why He doesn't leave us to do it alone! It is God's wisdom and understanding, as eyes are opened and hearts are softened.

'We slog, He sustains'

Paul doesn't hold back here, he tells the Colossian Christians and us that proclaiming the Gospel is hard work. But, the truth is that God always equips us for the work He calls us to do. Verse 29, 'with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me,' not our strength, but Christ.

TASK 3: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What do you think of how Paul responds to suffering? Do you find it comforting that it is not up to us to spread the Gospel but through God's wisdom? Does this make it easier to think of having conversations with friends and family about your faith?

Is there someone in your life, a friend or family member that you could have a conversation about your faith with? This doesn't have to be a really scary thing, it could be simply sending a text of your favourite bible verse.