


Colossians 1:24-29

The Apostle Paul Suffers Tribulation For The Church




Outline

Colossians 1:15-20 **Christ Hymn** (3rd Person)

Colossians 1:21-23 **Application of Hymn** (2nd Person)

Colossians 1:24-2:5 **Apostolic Task** (1st and 2nd Person) “I and you”

1. The suffering of the apostle vs.24
2. The apostle’s task vs. 25a-c
3. The mystery vs. 25d-27
4. The apostle’s task vs.28
5. The labor of the apostle vs. 29



Paul Suffers “Tribulation”

Colossians 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.

What does this mean?

1. Christ’s atonement insufficient? (1:12-14; 19-22)
2. To suffer “for Christ’s sake” (what is lacking)?
3. To suffer “like Christ” (quality) (what is lacking)?
4. To suffer “in mystical union” (what is lacking)?
5. **“The Afflictions of Christ”** = Messianic birth pangs

The “Thlipsis” Must Reach Its Appointed Limit

Deuteronomy 4:27-30

The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few among the nations where the LORD drives you...But from there you will seek the LORD your God...When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, **in the latter days** you will return to the LORD your God and **listen to His voice**.

The “Thlipsis” Must Reach Its Appointed Limit

Isaiah 65:16-17

Because he who is blessed in the earth will be blessed by the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth will swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My sight! **For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.**

Daniel 12:1

Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress **such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time.**

The “Thlipsis” Must Reach Its Appointed Limit

Matthew 24:8-9

But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

2nd Thessalonians 1:6-7

For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be **revealed** from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire...

Paul: Minister of The Gospel

Colossians 1:25-26 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, **so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God**, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, **but has now** been manifested to His saints...

1. Subjective Genitive = "God's management"
2. "To fill the word of God" = carry to completion
3. Mystery: once concealed – now revealed

Mystery: Once Concealed Now Revealed

Romans 16:25-26 ...according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, **but now is manifested**, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, **has been made known** to all the nations...

Matthew 13:10-11 (Disciples) "Why do You speak to them in parables?" (Jesus) "To you it **has been granted to know** the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it **has not been granted**."

How Much Was Known?

Acts 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, **he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ...**"

1st Peter 1:10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you **made careful searches and inquiries**, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

Read: Luke 24:44-47

The Hope of Glory

...but has now been manifested to His saints...

Colossians 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1. Christ dwelling in Gentile Christians
2. Christ dwelling among Gentile Christians
3. Christ dwelling in and among Gentile Christians

The Promise Always Included The Gentiles

Romans 15:9-12 ...and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME." Again he says, "REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE." And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM." Again Isaiah says, THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."

The Apostolic Task

Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works in me.



Application

We have been grafted into **the promise** given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Paul labored on our behalf and undertook his portion of “the afflictions of Christ.” So must we!

Acts 14:22b “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”
