

Colossians 1.24–2.5

“Christ in You, The Hope of Glory”

Inside SPAM Box find E-mail LETTER from Nigeria / writer: Prisoner

Calls YOU Brother/Sister wants GIVE you Exceedingly Valuable Gift

Just NEED to send PRISONER – You Never Met – Banking DETAILS

2000 yrs ago sm grp Xtian in Colossae – small city inland from Medit. Sea

Got SIMILAR Letter // 1 day Hometown Boy returned Ephesus /100 mi West

Told HOMIES in Colossae & Laodicea, Hierapolis – Guy met > His Message

JEW Named Jesus – RABBI & REDEEMER > ROSE from Dead

He Appointed SPOKESMEN/Apostles > Preach WORD & Plant CHURCHes

Sounded Good to Some > Bought In > Joined the Crazies called Xtians!

Paul NEVER Showed Up in Colossae > Imprisoned in ROME

Epaphras went to Rome see Paul > Epaphras never came back EITHER

LETTER arrives, Claimed from Paul > carried by Tychicus & Onesimus

During Paul & Epaphras’ ABSENCE False Teacher Trash-Talked THEM

What KIND Man of God gets SENT to PRISON? Smoking Wrong Stuff!

Today short Letter > Bound into Most Popular Book in History: BIBLE

People all Around World have letter Shelves & Phones, almost 2000 lang.

TODAY High Holy Day of Xtianity – More than 2 Billion say J. Alive!

NT Not calling you to Warm Feeling, Hallmark moment, Reason to Feast

If Jesus is ALIVE – calling People to DIE for Him > give U E & A Life

Radical Demands approp RESPONSE to 2 Claims see in our Easter Text

1. All Treasures of Wisdom & Knowledge are in the Risen Jesus

2. I am Filling Up what is Lacking in Christ's Afflictions

1. All Treasures of Wisdom & Knowledge are in the Risen Jesus

a. Mystery of the Hope of Glory

Apostle Paul describes the ministry God gave him... v. 25 “to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations”

Paul uses MYSTERY 4 X’s in Colossians > 21 X’s in 13 Letters

Common Word for GREEKS >> Secret Religions, Initiations, Rituals

TODAY Meaning: THINGS we DO NOT & CANNOT Know, Puzzling

UNDERSTANDING Mysteries of Life = Discover MEANING of Life

v. 26 “but now revealed to his saints”

PAUL “Mystery” = OPEN SECRET: Once HIDDEN, NOW Revealed

Mystery is NOW KNOWN ONLY Because GOD Makes in Known

Don’t NEED a PASSWORD to Find it > Need PROPHET to FOLLOW!

Jesus Christ – God’s FULL and FINAL Prophet – OPENS God’s Secret

v. 27 “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery”

God’s PROMISES Given to JEWS > Some Jews CLAIMED Superiority

CW: IF Any Place for GENTILES> They must become JEWS First

Jews LOOKED Down on Them > JESUS lifted them UP as EQUALS

TRAGIC when Bring Separation / Snooty attitude into Jesus’ church

Now ALL NATIONS COME > JESUS is SAVIOR of the World

v. 27 “the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”

OUR ONE FATHER has Made us into ONE FAMILY in CHRIST

NO CASTE System in Christianity > Jew & Gentile ONE in Christ

IMAGINE how Wonderful this Sounded to GENTILES

X Broken DOWN Dividing Walls of HOSTILITY/ Become OUR PEACE

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Ephesians 3.6

Paul uses description of our Position > “in X” – 100 X’s in 13 Letters

TRUTH: We are UNITED to Him – Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension

Rarely Paul says v. 27 “Christ IN You” - God Works FOR Us AND IN Us

2 sides of Same Work of Grace – Work of Father, Son, Spirit – One God

Christ who is IN us, is in Heaven > Certain Hope of Heaven for Us

Jesus: “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” John 14.23

b. Treasures of Wisdom & Knowledge in Jesus

2.2,3 to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

Astonishing CLAIM > All Treasures of Wisdom, Knowledge in HIM

NOT Mean we KNOW Everything > NO MAN DOES!

X WISDOM for All of Life – for the Best Life – Eternal – Abundant in X

v. 18,19 “He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”

“you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus” Eph 4.21

Founders of first Universities believed: One clear Truth

God IS UNI > from ‘Unity’ of truth in God > examined ‘diverse’ world

“University” > In God’s Light they Saw LIGHT

Not all ‘born again evangelicals’ > Bible Word of God / Jesus Son of God

Could stand upon It as Foundation > Study all of Life from IT

MOTTOS of World’s University still Show that FOUNDATION

Carry my name to the people > The way, the truth, and the life

Harvard University 1692 “Truth for Christ and the Church” > VERITAS

1. All Treasures of Wisdom & Knowledge are in the Risen Jesus

2. I am Filling Up what is Lacking in Christ's Afflictions

a. Suffer with Joy

v. 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

False Teachers come into Colossae > Paul in Prison / Ep stuck in Rome

How could Paul be God's Man? God can't get him OUT of Prison!

Need New Teaching / Experience – Another Blessing > WE Offer You!

The only reason Paul was in prison was because he thought Gentiles had the same access to God that Jews did. If he had been content to be a Jewish Christian with a mission to Jews or if he had been willing to keep Gentiles on a lower plane, he would not have been in jail. Kyle Snodgrass

Value we PLACE on Something shown in what we will ENDURE for IT

Paul JOYFUL in the PRIVILEGE of being Worthy to Suffer for X

So WHAT is “lacking in Christ's afflictions”?? > v. 24 Strange Words

Nothing to ADD to ACCOMPLISH our Salvation

vs. 13,14 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus died our DEATH – ONCE FOR ALL – FOREVER to SAVE

CHURCH has Quotient of Suffering that must be FULFILLED

v. 24 “for the sake of his body, that is, the church”

X suffered to Accomplish Salvation / Xtians suffer to ANNOUNCE It

Follow Footsteps of Master, CROSS to CROWN, Work of CHURCH

More Xtians killed for Jesus in 20th C than in previous 19 C Combined

21st C Starting Off even MORE Deadly for Followers of RISEN Jesus

To the ENDS of the EARTH – till the END OF THE AGE

Fill up QUOTIENT of Suffering God has Ordained to Announce Gospel

TRIUMPH of Church > Seen even thru TROUBLES of the Christian
 Can Seem like EVIL WINS – For a SEASON – Grows DARK
 But when we SEE the GRAND Design of God – as Paul did in Prison
 SUFFERINGS are SANCTIFYING > Advance the Cause of GOSPEL

1.6 the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing

1.23 the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven

b. Stewards of Gifts of the Gospel

vs. 24,25 the church, 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 defines MINISTRY with 2 HUMBLE Words: Servant, Steward

Today: Steward > Looks after Passengers on Ship, Aircraft, or Train

Bible > Steward: Key SERVANT in HOUSEHOLD of the MASTER

JOSEPH was Steward – In HOUSE of POTIPHAR & LAND of Pharaoh

Position of AUTHORITY & RESPONSIBILITY but NOT OWNERSHIP

Paul NOT Invent his Message > Speaks as Apostle of Risen Lord Jesus

Not trying be CLEVER but CLEAR > Not FUNNY but Faithful to Word

Not HIDING Anything > Transparent in Life & Speech

v. 27-29 Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Paul, Timothy, Epaphras > Stewards God's Word to COLOSSAE

Rightly HANDLE & Deliver Message > Open Secret, God's Mystery

GOOD NEWS of Jesus LOVE for ALL Peoples

1) Goal: “present everyone MATURE in Christ”

Hearers will stand as mature believers in Christ, faithful until the end -

Mature: Big enough on the inside to control themselves on the outside

2) Message: “We proclaim Him” Jesus: Crucified, Risen, Coming again

Say WHAT God says in WORD – No MORE and No LESS

Do NOT GO BEYOND what is Written – Bound TO & BY Scripture

“keep your finger on the text”

D.A. Carson

3) Strength: “all His energy, that he powerfully works in me”

Struggle > word from Athletic CONTEST > Playing to WIN

Goal: Jesus in Others, Message: Jesus in Scriptures, Strength: Jesus in Us

c. Stand in Maturity in Christ

Proclaiming Christ to EVERYONE > has POSITIVE & Negative Aspects

“The pastor ought to have two voices: one, for gathering the sheep; and another, for warding off and driving away wolves and thieves. The Scripture supplies him with the means of doing both.”

John Calvin

Negatively: Paul WARNS Young Believers – Beware Lies & Deceivers

Positively: Teaches the Whole Counsel of God – Balance of Biblical Truth

2.4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

False Teaching was Deceptive & Dangerous > THEN and NOW!

Our Day Great Ability to Turn-On New Teachings > Devices, Platforms

NOT Very Skilled in Knowing How to DISCERN those Teachings

Recently MET Woman > Lost HOUSE & Savings by TV Ministry!

SCHOLARS Debate exactly WHAT was False Teaching in Colossae

Paul – who NEVER Been There – NOT Make DIRECT Attack

READERS likely had More AFFECTION for False Teachers than PAUL

What they said might be FALSE – but their Style was FLATTERING

Hard to be CRITICAL when you are CHARMED and CAPTIVATED

So, Paul draws STRAIGHT Lines of Gospel Truth for them to STUDY

As see BIBLICAL Teaching – Realize lines of False Teachers CROOKED
 Like TRAIN Money Handlers in Banks > Learn REAL Bills WELL
 Counterfeits will STAND Out for their FLAWS when Know the REAL!

WHAT IS IT TO BE MATURE?

JESUS SAYS WE ARE TO BE CHILDLIKE - Complete Trust in God
 BUT WE ARE NOT TO BE CHILDISH - Unstable and Naive
 CHILDREN - SHORT ATTENTION SPAN- OFTEN CHANGE MINDS

MARK TWAIN was 20 - said his father was "ignorant and out of date"
 at 30 he "saw some improvement in his father"
 at age 40 declared his father "had come a long ways"

NOT AFRAID OF THE “C” WORD - NOT CANCER – COMMITMENT

FAITHFULNESS & STABILITY - MARKS OF XTIAN MATURITY

Ministry means SERVICE > Paul served with WHOLE SELF

Paul STRUGGLES so these Christians will STAND in MATURITY

2.2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ

ENCOURAGED in Heart / Knit together in LOVE / Full Assurance

“way of referring to an encouragement that touches the deepest part of our being and affects every aspect of our persons” Douglas Moo

Intellectual Growth/ Academics NOT Enough to be Christian Leader

MUST Study Hard > Let WORD study YOU Even HARDER

Christian GROWTH is Wholistic: Mind, Heart, Will, Emotions

Gospel Trasformation is Complete: Belief, Behavior, Relationships

2.5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Despite False Teachers > their RANKS were NOT Broken – FIRM!

UNITY > Because their FOCUS on Christ – Creator, Savior, Reconciler

Real Christianity NOT INDIVIDUAL Sport > TEAM Sport

Why we INVITE People to be CHURCH Members > Commitment

Why concerned About HYPOCRISY > Say your Member Not Show Up!

Gospel-transformed Fusion Jew & Gentile – God making Community

Not RIGID Order of Police State > Harmonious Order of Symphony Orch

Steadfast – Like Tree in Kohala – NOT Blown Down by Strong WINDS

False Teachings No Danger > FIRMLY Rooted in Christ & Scriptures

2.1 “great struggle...YOU AND for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen my face to face” (like them in Colossae)

We are Called to Make the Gospel Known by our Words and Deeds

Humble Son of God had More POWER than Alliance of Pilate & Herod

Rome Murdered ALL Apostles, Word of Apostles brought ROME Down

OHANA of Jesus in Every Nation – People meeting round world TODAY

HOW Many will be in Churches around World > Today Biggest Day

Every day avg 174,000 New Believers / 3,500 new churches weekly WW

Glory to our Savior this Resurrection Day > HE Will build His Church

Colossians 1.²⁴ 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. 2

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.