

The Mystery: The Hope of Glory IN Christ

Colossians 1:24-2:5

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Flashback: Time, place, purpose – heresy of Gnosticism [Jesus plus special knowledge].

Look at the Scriptures through different lenses to get broader perspectives of understanding.

Colossians 1:24 Christ's redemption was sufficient and complete.
We rejoice to suffer for Christ.

"Christ suffering was for our salvation, our suffering is for the propagation of the gospel out to lost sinners."

Joyful sacrificial suffering is when: You get more joy out of something you love and suffer for it -- than the joy you had in what you are losing.

John 16:33 Acts 5:40-41

Colossians 1:25 Paul and all believers are to be stewards to present God's Word in its fullness.

Colossians 1:26 God chooses to make known the mystery of how salvation is accomplished.

Colossians 1:27 Mystery is Christ in you!

Colossians 1:28 We are to – like Paul – proclaim Christ!

John 5:39 I Cor. 15:3-4 Acts 15:18 Acts 28:23

**The Bible is not some book about inspiring virtues, moral codes or religious principles.
It's a HIM book. It's about HIM!**

Colossians 1:29 Struggling to do more than my ability with God's energy.

Colossians 2:1 Struggling in prayer for us to keep up the spiritual battle daily.

2:2-3 Grow in your relationship with Christ to be like Christ.

2:4 Growing in Christ helps you see the heresies.

2:5 Orderly: staying disciplined in constant readiness for the ever present spiritual battle.

Practicing spiritual disciplines: scripture reading, prayer, fellowship, service, etc.

Firm in your faith: forming a battle line against the enemies advances.

Questions to consider this week:

- Is Christ truly IN you?
- Is your life and your words proclaiming Christ?
- Are you living out a life worthy of who you are in Christ in His power and energy?
- What would you be willing to give up or suffer to get the gospel to lost people?
- Do you love seeing lost people come to Christ?