

## **Colossians 1:24-29**

### **The Mystery of Christ**

The good news of Jesus Christ is different from what the Jews were looking forward to in the coming of the Messiah. Salvation is not only for the Jews who were chosen by God, but it is good news for everyone including Gentiles! We can receive this mystery, the glory of Christ, and we will even be able to rejoice in the midst of suffering in the same way Paul did.

1. Reading: Let's read the Bible.

Let's read Colossians 1:15-23 and mark the passage as you read it.

[?] ... for a question or doubt.

[!] ... for a good impression. i.e. "I like what this verse says."

\*Talk about the verses you marked. What did you have a question about or why did you like a particular verse?

## **Colossians 1:24-29**

### **The Mystery of Christ**

*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. ESV*

2. Focus: Let's discuss the focus

Contents: What did you find written here? Make a summary of the contents and express it in your own words.

Focus: What is the focus of the selected passage? Summarize. (answers may vary)

3. Study: Using the questions as hints, let`s study the Bible together.

(1.) In verses 24-25, what is Paul`s mission? Who gave it to him? What is it according to the passage?

(2.) Look at the expression “what is lacking in Christ's afflictions” in verse 24. What does this really mean? Does this mean there is something lacking in the salvation found in Christ? If not, then what is Paul trying to say through this expression? Let`s think about this together.

(3.) (verse 24-27) Paul rejoiced in the hardships he suffered for his mission. How can we rejoice in the midst of suffering and hardship?

(4.) According to verse 29, Paul says the ability to complete his mission in the midst of suffering and toil is the power of Christ working inside him so powerfully. In what way can we receive this power? Let`s consider this together.

(5.) Let`s compare our calling in light of the suffering Paul experienced. What difficulties are you experiencing right now? What aspect of those struggles make it hard to live out your faith?

(6.) How does Christ respond to your sufferings, conflicts, and worries? If you have family members, friends and co-workers who are suffering, how can you help them deal with their pain and serve them?

4. Application: How does this apply to our lives?

Freely share new things you have realized or learned from this Bible study.