

Series: Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ

Sermon: Him We Proclaim, The Hope of Glory

Scripture: Colossians 1:24-2:5

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Colossians 1:24-2:5 (ESV)

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.

1. We rejoice in our sufferings. (v. 24-25)

- For the sake of the church.
- To make the word of God fully known.

“We should bear in mind that although Christ by means of the afflictions which he endured rendered complete satisfaction to God, so that Paul is able to glory in nothing but the cross (Gal. 6:14), the enemies of Christ were not satisfied! They hated Jesus with insatiable hatred and wanted to add to his afflictions. But since he was no longer physically present on earth, their arrows, which are meant especially for him, strike his followers. It is in that sense that all true believers are in his stead supplying what, as the enemies see it, is lacking in the afflictions which Jesus endured. Christ's afflictions overflow toward us.” - Hendriksen, *Colossians*, p. 87.

Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV)

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

Mark 13:13 (ESV)

And you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

John 15:18-21 (ESV)

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you...if they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.

1 Corinthians 1:5 (ESV)

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

2. We behold the mystery revealed. (v. 26-27)

- Christ in us.
- The hope of glory.

“It is not referring to a secret teaching, rite, or ceremony ... something hidden from the masses and only revealed to an exclusive group. No, in Pauline literature, a mystery is a person or a truth that would have remained unknown had not God revealed him or it.”
(Hendriksen p. 88)

Romans 8:11 (ESV)

If the Spirit of him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

3. We proclaim Christ! (v. 28-29)

- Warning and teaching with all wisdom.
- Toiling and struggling with His power.

4. We contend for one another in the faith. (2:1-5)

- That our hearts may be encouraged.
- That we would be knit together in love.