



Leader

9/1 - Colossians 1:24-29

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. The opening words in this text express that Paul is rejoicing in his suffering. How is this possible? How does a Christian worldview help us understand this?
Pastor John McArthur says, "you do not lose the joy of serving Christ unless your communion with Him breaks down. Paul was at times discouraged by his circumstances, but he maintained his joy." A Christian runs to a deep well of joy provided by the Holy Spirit, accessible to us through abiding in Christ. It is always available, in the darkest and joyous seasons of life.
3. In verse 24, Paul speaks about "filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions." This verse has been a source of much controversy over the years. What do think Paul is trying to describe for us here?
Jesus' afflictions completely satisfied the wrath of God. His atoning work on the cross was sufficient to provide salvation and reconciliation to those who believe. Paul was referring to the persecution and suffering that still remained for all believers. Pastor Danny Akin said it well, "Christ suffered and satisfied the divine wrath for the sin of humanity on the cross (1 John 2:2). But Jesus also affirmed that there were earthly afflictions still yet to come that his followers would endure (Mark 13:19-24; Rev. 6:9-11)."
4. Paul speaks of mysteries revealed. What mysteries are being revealed and how are they being uncovered?
The revelation of the mysteries of God were not due to the genius of man. They were the special revelation of God given to "the saints" through Jesus. Some of these revealed mysteries include; Christ being in us (the hope of glory), our status in Christ, our glorious inheritance, and Christ for all people (Gentiles are now partakers of this same grace).
5. What is the challenge Paul gives us in this text? Indirectly, what does he model or prescribe for us?
We are to proclaim Christ, teaching and admonishing with biblical wisdom those who need it, so that the body matures together (see also Ephesians 4:11-16).
6. What is unique about verse 29? What is Paul's source?
Paul says that he toils and struggles with all "his" energy. Paul makes it clear that it is not his own energy or power that enables him, but it is Christ's power and spirit alive that works within him.

7. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text to a friend or a child?

[Dialogue]

Example 1: God used Paul, through suffering, to be an ambassador of Christ, proclaiming the mystery that Christ is in us, the hope of glory.

Example 2: Since God has chosen to reveal himself to us through Jesus, I will spend my life proclaiming these same truths to those around me, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

8. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- The McArthur Commentary Series (Colossians and Philemon).
- Christ-Centered Exposition (Colossians and Philemon). Pace, Akin.