

Centered in Christ: The Mystery of the Gospel

Colossians 1:24-2:3

Paul's Joy (v. 24-26)

- Paul tells the church that he finds joy in the suffering he undergoes for the spread of the Gospel
- Stating that he is supplementing the ministering of Christ on the Cross through his own suffering
 - Paul is NOT saying that Jesus' work was not enough to accomplish salvation
 - But rather, it is Paul's job to spread the message of Jesus, even through his own suffering
- Paul describes his ministry to the church as oikonomia
 - *Oikonomia*= 'house rules'; the effective and orderly work of a household or business
 - He understands his calling and ministry within the context of a God's 'household' (1 Cor 3:10–15; Rom. 1:11–12; Eph. 2:19–20)
 - He understands the tasks of his servanthood as those of a steward (Rom. 1:5, 11)
- Paul calls the Gospel a mystery
 - Not that is difficult to understand
 - But rather that until Jesus revealed it, it was somewhat unknown
 - Though alluded to in the Old Testament
- And it is his job to proclaim that mystery to the saints
 - As well as to the world

The Hope of Glory (v. 27-29)

- Part of the mystery of the Gospel is God's inclusion of the Gentiles as part of His people
- But the biggest part of this mystery is that Jesus wants to live within us
 - To empower us for godly living
 - Which Paul calls our 'glorious hope' (v. 27)
- And it is Christ in Paul which empowers him to proclaim the Gospel (v. 29)

Paul's Ministry (2:1-3)

- Paul wants the Church to be encouraged by what he suffers for their sake
- Declaring that both the Gospel and they are worth it

So What?

- Jesus empowers us to be His people
- And He empowers us to carry His message
- Are we living in that power?

Meditation Verse: Colossians 1:27