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# Book of Colossians

## Lesson 4 - Paul's Passion for the Church

Colossians 1:24-2:5

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# Paul's Sufferings for the Church

## Colossians 1:24

- **Sufferings** (*pathēma*) – “mistreatment or hardship.” Paul's sufferings have been **for your sake**.
- **I do my share ... in filling up** (*antanaplēroō*) – “to fill up in turn.” It is now Paul's turn to *fill up* what Jesus said would happen (John 15:18-20).
- **Afflictions** (*thlipsis*) – “pressure or trouble.” It is never used in Scripture to describe the suffering of Christ on the cross, which lacks nothing.
- **Lacking** (*husterēma*) – “what follows behind or is yet lacking.”  
"In the world you have **tribulation** (*thlipsis*), but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)



# Paul's Stewardship for the Church

## Colossians 1:25-26

- **Stewardship** (*oikonomia*) – “economy, administration, or method of operating.” It carries the idea of the obligation, responsibility, and authority to manage things.
- **Fully carry out** (*plēroō*) – “to fill completely.” Paul’s mission was to proclaim the message of Christ’s work on our behalf completely, and to *complete* the Word of God.
- **Mystery** (*mustērion*) – a truth “hidden from the past ages and generations, but now manifested to His saints.” Truth previously unrevealed by God but which He now shares by revealing it to His apostles and prophets.



# God's Revelation for the Church

## Colossians 1:27

- **God willed to make known** (*thelō*) – God intended, planned, or determined to reveal this at exactly the right time in history.
- **Riches** (*ploutos*) – “wealth, abundance, plenty.”
- **Glory** (*doxa*) – “resulting in praise and honor to God.”
- **Among the Gentiles** – Jews & Gentiles as joint heirs of the mystery.
- Mystery = **Christ in you**; Messiah indwelling each individual believer.
- **Hope of glory** – as in Col 1:5, “the hope laid up for you in heaven.”
- If all we have is Jesus, we have all we need both for today and for the glorious future.



# Paul's Mission for the Church

## Colossians 1:28

- **Proclaim Him** (*kataggellō*) – “to announce throughout;” to proclaim far and wide what Christ accomplished on our behalf.
- **Admonish every man** (*noutheteō*) – “to put in mind;” to warn or admonish gently.
- **Teach every man** (*didaskō*) – “to instruct or deliver information.” To present the truths of the faith & the content of biblical doctrine.
- **Present every man** (*paristēmi*) **complete** (*teleios*) – Paul already prayed (Colossians 1:9-12) for them to grow in spiritual maturity, and specifically here, through the teaching ministry of the Church.



# Paul's Energy for his Mission

## Colossians 1:29

- **Labor** (*kopiaō*) – “to grow weary from toil or exhausted with effort.”
- **Striving** (*agōnizomai*) – “to contend with adversaries; to struggle with difficulties and dangers.”
- Not in his own strength, but in **His power** (*dunamis*) which **mightily** (*dunamis*) works within him.
- **Work** (*energeō*) – “to put forth power;” to be active in accomplishing something.
- Paul is presenting himself as the role model for living in the strength that God provides.



# Paul's Concern for the Church at Large

## Colossians 2:1-3

- **Struggle** (*agōn*) – “an inward contest of anxiety” for the Church.
- Paul had **not personally** ministered there, but his stewardship was for the Church at large.
- **Encourage** (*parakaleō*) – “to call alongside to help.”
- **Knit together in love** (*sumbibazō*) – “to push together;” unite in affection.
- **Full assurance** (*plērophoria*) – “perfect certainty or complete conviction” of **understanding** (*sunesis*) and **true knowledge** (*epignōsis*).
- Mystery = **Christ** – our **treasury** (*thēsauros*) of the wealth of **wisdom** (*sophia*) and **knowledge** (*gnosis*).



# Paul's Commendation for the Church

## Colossians 2:4-5

- **Truth is the antidote for deception**
- **Delude** (*paralogizomai*) – “to deceive by false reasoning.” Traveling orators and philosophers were common in Paul’s day.
- **Persuasive argument** (*pithanologia*) – “specious rhetoric which leads listeners into error.”
- **Commendation:**
  1. Their **good discipline** (*taxis*) – “orderly arrangement.”
  2. **Stability** (*stereōma*) of their faith in Christ – “strong, solid, or stable.” Not likely to be deluded by persuasive arguments.





# Application

- How are you dealing with the trials and pressures you experience in life? Are you grumbling and complaining, or are you rejoicing in God's sovereign care over us?
- How is your intake of the preaching of the Word of God? Are you exposing yourself to a regular dose of solid expository preaching?
- Are you being knit together in love with fellow Christians? How can you put sacrificial love into action this week?
- How can you maintain *good discipline* and *stability* in the faith this week? Are there influences around you that distract or derail your focus on Christ?

