



“No Pain, No Gain”

Colossians 1:24-29

January 9, 2022

Questions for Application and Fellowship

1. What are some of the painful experiences you’ve had in life? How about in your walk with Christ?

QUICK REVIEW

Awaiting trial before Caesar in Rome, Paul is on house arrest. He receives a visit from one of his former students, Epaphras, who had planted the church in Colossae. Epaphras brings a glowing report of the church’s faithfulness and the report of false teaching infecting this small city. Paul writes to fortify the church with a clear, accurate view of the supremacy and the sufficiency of Christ Jesus for life and salvation. He does so with a tone of great joy and gratitude for this small church family.

Having presented the true doctrine of Christ in 1:15-20, now presents a true picture of Christian ministry in 1:24-19. Suffering is not an abnormal experience in serving the Kingdom. Rather, it is through affliction and toil that the church experiences growth in number and maturity. Because we shrink back from suffering, we need to see how the glory outweighs the pain.

To endure ministerial sufferings with Christ,

1. Let’s _____ the mystery (1:26-27).
2. Let’s _____ the purpose (1:28).
3. Let’s _____ the energy (1:29).

Was any point in this weekend’s message or portion of Scripture particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Acts 14:19-23. According to verse 22, what must disciples pass through as they enter the kingdom of God? How is this reinforced in II Timothy 3:10-13?
2. All through the New Testament, suffering for the kingdom is presented as a normative for the Christian (John 15:18-27; the Letter of I Peter, for example). Yet we naturally tend to recoil from it. In what ways do you avoid suffering for the name of Jesus? Is there anything you need help repenting of?
3. Paul reveals a great mystery that propelled him in his ministry. It's the reality of the indwelling of Christ, which secures glorification for the believer. How can this mystery now revealed help put the challenges of the Christian life into their right perspective?
4. What is the great purpose that Paul pursued as a minister of God's Word in 1:28? How is the entire church called to share in this purpose (Colossians 3:16, cf. Ephesians 4:15-16)? How can you go about this?
5. Going back to Acts 14:19-23, what resources do you see God providing for our endurance in the midst of trials? How have you experienced these things?