



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Colossians 1.24-29

Open with Prayer:

Sermon Summary:

Writing from prison, Paul declared, "I rejoice in my sufferings," not because suffering is pleasant, but because in Christ it carries purpose. Suffering is part of the Christian heritage, not a sign of God's curse.

Paul suffered *because of his stewardship*: God entrusted him to make the Word fully known.

That stewardship belongs to every believer, not just the Apostles. When the Word stays central, everything else finds its proper place. When it doesn't, secondary issues take over and unnecessary conflict follows.

At the heart of Paul's message is a mystery now revealed: **Christ in you, the hope of glory** (v. 27). Paul's goal was to present everyone mature in Christ, laboring with all the energy God supplies (vv. 28-29).

Discussion Questions:

1. **Paul** wrote from prison that he **rejoiced** in his **sufferings**. What is your honest, first reaction when you read that? Does it encourage you, confuse you, or frustrate you?
2. **Read Colossians 1.24**. What does it mean that suffering can "serve the church"? Can you think of a time when someone's faithfulness through hardship strengthened your own faith?
3. What is the **difference** between **suffering** that comes from faithfulness to God and suffering that comes from misplaced priorities? How does the sermon help us distinguish between the two?
4. What has **God** specifically **entrusted** to you to steward in this season of life?
5. Why is it so easy for **secondary issues** to quietly replace the Word of God at the center of a church's life? Have you ever seen this happen? What did it look like?
6. **Paul calls the Gospel** a "mystery hidden for ages but now revealed." Why do you think God chose to reveal salvation this way, over time, rather than all at once?

7. **Read Colossians 1.27.** What does it mean for your daily life that Christ is **in you**? How should that truth shape the way you face suffering this week?
8. **Verse 28** says Paul's aim was to "present everyone mature in Christ." What role do you play in helping others around you grow toward maturity?

Key Takeaways:

- **Suffering is heritage, not curse.** For the Christian, suffering is a given. The question is not whether we will suffer, but how we worship God in the midst of it.
- **Stewardship belongs to every believer.** Making the Word of God fully known is not reserved for pastors or apostles. Every church member carries this calling.
- **The Word must remain central.** When secondary things take the center, unnecessary conflict and suffering follow. Keeping God's Word first puts everything else in its proper place.
- **The mystery is now revealed.** "Christ *in* you, the hope of glory" means that through Jesus, every believer has direct, intimate access to God. That changes everything.
- **Maturity is the goal.** Paul labored to present everyone mature in Christ, not by his own strength, but by the energy God powerfully supplied in him (v. 29).

This Week:

- **Read Colossians 1.24-29 once each day this week.** Each day, write down one phrase that stands out to you and spend a few minutes in prayer asking God what He wants you to hear in it. By the end of the week, look back at what you wrote and notice how God spoke to you through the repetition.
- **Be the hands of the Christ who lives in you:** The sermon challenged us to *move* from being hearers of the Word to doers of the Word. This week, identify one person in your life who is carrying something heavy. It could be grief, illness, loneliness, or exhaustion. Reach out to them with a phone call, a visit, a meal, or even a simple text that says, "I'm thinking about you and praying for you."