

## Sermon Notes

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Colossians 1.23-27

### Suffering & the Christian Life (v. 24)

- Paul writes from prison: "I *rejoice* in my sufferings for your sake"
- Suffering is not a sign of God's curse. Rather it is part of the Christian heritage
- In Christ, suffering has purpose: it serves the church, displays the worth of Jesus, and glorifies God
- Key truth: It's not whether we suffer, but how we worship God in the midst of it
- See also: 2 Corinthians 11.23–28; John 16.33

### The Stewardship That Led to Paul's Suffering (v. 25)

- "I became a minister according to the stewardship from God...to make the word of God fully known"
- Stewardship means God owns everything, sets the mission, and entrusts responsibility to us
- A steward doesn't invent the agenda; a steward manages what belongs to Another
- This stewardship is not limited to Apostles because we see Epaphras carried the Gospel to Colossae
- Gospel stewardship belongs to every church member, not just ministry professionals

### Keeping the Word Central in Our Stewardship (v. 25)

- A church stewards many things: finances, facilities, relationships. **But** not all carry equal weight
- The Word of God must remain central; when it becomes an afterthought, secondary issues take over
- When secondary things become central, unnecessary conflict and suffering follow

### Keeping the Word Central in Our Stewardship (v. 25, cont.)

- Our truest heritage is the Gospel:
  - Proclaim Christ.
  - Evangelize.
  - Make disciples.

### The Mystery Revealed: Christ in You (vv. 26–27)

- "The mystery hidden for ages...but now revealed to his saints"
- The Greek word for "mystery" echoes Daniel 2: only God reveals what is hidden
- The mystery: "Christ in you, the hope of glory"
- Access to God is no longer limited because of Christ, who dwells in every believer through the Holy Spirit
- See also: Romans 16:25–26; 1 Corinthians 2:7

### Reflection & Questions

- Where in your life are you carrying suffering silently? How does knowing suffering has purpose in Christ change your perspective?
- What has God entrusted to you to steward? Is His Word central in how you live and serve?
- What does "Christ in you, the hope of glory" mean for your daily life this week?

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