



The Mystery Revealed
Colossians 1:24-29
October 5, 2025

BIG IDEA

Paul reminds us that following Christ often involves suffering, but it is suffering with purpose. His ministry was marked by hardship as he proclaimed the mystery now revealed: Christ in us, the hope of glory. This message is for all people—Jews and Gentiles alike—inviting them into a new, shared identity as the body of Christ. Paul labored tirelessly, empowered by Christ, so that every believer might grow into maturity. Today, we are called to embrace the hope of Christ within us, endure trials for the sake of the gospel, and help others become fully mature in him.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:24-29 (ESV)

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

MAIN THEME

Paul speaks about the incredible mystery now revealed through the gospel: Christ living within every believer. This truth was hidden for generations but now is fully known—salvation is for all people. Paul's own suffering demonstrates his deep love for the church and his willingness to endure hardship for the sake of others knowing Jesus. His mission was not just to share the gospel but to help believers grow to maturity. This passage challenges us to persevere through trials, rely on Christ's strength, and join in the work of making disciples who are rooted and growing in him.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION



1. Suffering with Purpose

Colossians 1:24; Philippians 1:29

- What does Paul mean when he says he rejoices in his sufferings for the church?
- How is this different from Christ's suffering on the cross for our salvation?
- How can our own hardships become opportunities to serve and glorify Christ?

2. The Mystery Revealed

Colossians 1:25-27; Ephesians 3:6

- What is the "mystery" Paul is talking about in these verses?
- Why is it significant that Gentiles are now included fully in God's family?
- How does knowing "Christ in you" bring hope and confidence to your daily life?

3. Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:27; Romans 8:10-11

- What does it mean to have Christ dwelling within you?
- How does this change the way you view your identity and purpose?
- What areas of your life need to be more fully surrendered to the hope you have in Christ?

4. Growing to Maturity

Colossians 1:28; Hebrews 5:11-14

- Why does Paul emphasize both warning and teaching in helping believers mature?
- What are some signs of spiritual maturity in a person's life?
- How can you take practical steps to grow deeper in your faith this week?

5. Empowered by Christ's Strength

Colossians 1:29; Philippians 4:13

- Paul describes toiling and struggling, yet relying on Christ's power. What does this balance look like in your life?
- Where do you tend to rely on your own strength instead of Christ's?
- How can we encourage each other as a church to serve and persevere through his power?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing the mystery of your grace to us. Thank you for making your home in our hearts and giving us the hope of glory. Help us to rejoice even in suffering, knowing you are at work in us and through us. Give us strength to serve



faithfully, courage to proclaim your truth, and a desire to grow to full maturity in you. Empower us by your Spirit to live for your glory and to help others do the same. In your name we pray, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Philippians 1:27-30 — Suffering for Christ as a privilege
- Ephesians 2:11-22 — Brought near and united as one body
- Romans 8:18-30 — Present suffering and future glory
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 — God's power in our weakness
- Hebrews 12:1-3 — Fixing our eyes on Jesus in endurance

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Colossians 2:1-5

Paul encourages his readers to pursue unity and faithfulness. He wanted them to stay true to the gospel and love others the way Christ loves us.

