

## OUTLINE

### **Courageous Suffering or Coward for Christ: Colossians 1:24-29**

**Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Jan 16, 2022**

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#### **Colossians 1:24-29 ESV**

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.



#### **Introduction and Background**

Raymond J. de Souza writes in an article called, "COVID may have hastened Christianity's decline in Canada"

*The pandemic is only a passing story. The real question is what will happen once the restrictions are lifted. Will the faithful come back?*

*Pentecost Sunday, which falls 50 days after Easter, doesn't get quite the attention that Easter and Christmas do, but traditionally it is just as important. Christians often refer to it as the "birthday" of the church, when frightened and cowering disciples were converted by the power of the Holy Spirit into fearless evangelists. They would be the missionary martyrs who would carry the Christian faith, as the scripture puts it, to the ends of the earth.*

*Yet the pandemic is only a (slowly) passing story. The real question is what will happen once the restrictions are lifted. Will the faithful come back? I keep on my desk the January 2020 issue of the Anglican Journal. The headline on its cover focuses the attention of anyone engaged in pastoral work: Gone by 2040?*

- where will the Canadian church be in 2040? Will we all be gone?
- what we have seen over the last few years in the Canadian church is the need to major on the majors and minor on the minors
- we as the Canadian church need to grasp this \_\_\_\_\_ that Paul had for his own life

- Paul fills up his flesh in what is \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ's afflictions
- Paul knows that the Lord has called him to do something and that is to make the Lord Jesus known even though there could be \_\_\_\_\_ !
- if you are a Christian here today are you willing to \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord Jesus Christ and sacrifice the comfortable life for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ?
- will we, as a church, join in the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the grace of God to a lost world!
  
- the book of \_\_\_\_\_ was written to a church who desperately needed to hear about the work and greatness of Christ
- the Colossian church had some problems
- there were certain people in the church that were \_\_\_\_\_ that a life of joy and fullness could only be found in obeying certain rules and regulations
- these \_\_\_\_\_ teachers were replacing Jesus Christ with man-made ideas and \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ these Christians by preaching clearly Jesus Christ and His work!
  
- just in case someone at the church of Colossae was confused about Jesus, Paul wrote this great - \_\_\_\_\_ in Colossians 1:15-20
- the hymn's themes can be summarized by: 1) Jesus is Supreme over \_\_\_\_\_ 2) Jesus is Supreme over the \_\_\_\_\_ and 3) Jesus is Supreme over \_\_\_\_\_
  
- now Paul enters a new section in the book of Colossians where he focuses upon his \_\_\_\_\_ ministry for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church
- you will see Paul speaks, personally, about himself in this section?
- 1:24 – \_\_\_ rejoice, my \_\_\_\_\_ , I am filling up
- 1:25 – I became a \_\_\_\_\_ , God gave me
- 1:29 – I toil, I \_\_\_\_\_ , the power that works in me
- here we look at Paul and his ministry but also his \_\_\_\_\_ !

**Outline:**

- 1) (1:24-25) Christ's Afflictions**
- 2) (1:26-27) Christ In You**
- 3) (1:28-29) Christ Proclaimed**

**1) (1:24-25) Christ's Afflictions**

**(1:24) 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**

- do you see how Paul starts out this section?
- he is \_\_\_\_\_ and he is rejoicing in the fact that he is \_\_\_\_\_ !
- in Canadian culture suffering is basically seen as a \_\_\_\_\_
- nobody \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer and if you are suffering then some see this suffering as a possible punishment because you have not been \_\_\_\_\_ enough
- Paul here does not see his suffering as \_\_\_\_\_ but as something he is called to do
  
- do you notice who he suffers for?

- Paul suffers for “ \_\_\_\_\_ sake”, which is for the sake of the Colossian \_\_\_\_\_
- at the end of the verse we see that the suffering is connected to “his \_\_\_\_\_”, that is Christ’s body which is the \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul does not rejoice in suffering just so he can \_\_\_\_\_ about his suffering
- Paul does not rejoice in \_\_\_\_\_ so he could claim to be a martyr for the Lord
- No, Paul suffers for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people of God

- what kind of suffering did \_\_\_\_\_ experience for the sake of making Jesus Christ known?
- Paul talks about his suffering extensively in the book of \_\_\_\_\_ Corinthians

- remember that Paul wrote this section in 2 Corinthians because \_\_\_\_\_ teachers were saying that Paul’s suffering meant that he was not a \_\_\_\_\_ apostle!

**2 Corinthians 11:23-33** Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one-- I am talking like a madman-- with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, <sup>33</sup> but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

- when you read this you have to wonder, “how on earth did Paul \_\_\_\_\_?”
- he survived only by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit within him!
- but we still have not addressed the elephant in the room concerning the interpretation of Colossians 1:24!
- what does “in my \_\_\_\_\_ I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions” mean?
- this has been called one of the hardest verses to understand in the book of Colossians
- since Jesus died for our \_\_\_\_\_, once for all, so there can be \_\_\_\_\_ lacking in His suffering for us

**Hebrews 10:10** And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- there is no more affliction that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ have suffered for our sake!
- you have been made holy and blameless in the sight of God and there is nothing \_\_\_\_\_ to be done for us by Christ
- Jesus said “it is \_\_\_\_\_” and he meant it!
- Praise the Lord for the work of Christ and His cleansing us and \_\_\_\_\_ us from our sin
- so what could be \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ’s afflictions?
- as you can imagine there are \_\_\_\_\_ different ideas on what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions!
- but what Paul is getting at here is that his mission is an \_\_\_\_\_ of the sufferings of Christ
- think about all the times that Paul preached and then he suffered

- Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ up what was lacking in the sufferings of Christ by his \_\_\_\_\_ as he preached Christ
- thus we all have suffering to do in light of the gospel \_\_\_\_\_ that needs to be done!
- I know that might not be the inspirational \_\_\_\_\_ that you wanted to hear today
- if someone asks you what the sermon is about you can say “we need to suffer \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord Jesus”
- that might keep them out of this church
- although this message is not \_\_\_\_\_ it is the God given truth that we \_\_\_\_\_ to hear
- we might be tempted to sit metaphorically in the \_\_\_\_\_ pew,
- but the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ us to look outward and do His work of \_\_\_\_\_ the lost for the glory of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ if that means suffering!
- we are not \_\_\_\_\_ to the work of Christ, but we are called to \_\_\_\_\_ the work of Christ in suffering while we make His gospel known to the world

**(1:25) 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,**

- do you see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God here, the Lord gave Paul this mission of becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord Jesus Christ
- Paul was made a \_\_\_\_\_
- the original text can be translated minister or \_\_\_\_\_ which means “a servant”
- Paul is not given the \_\_\_\_\_ of CEO or dictator or authoritarian over the church but the job of \_\_\_\_\_ by God
- the Lord gave to Paul this \_\_\_\_\_ to make the word of God fully known
- yes, Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ to preach the gospel but Paul was also entrusted with the \_\_\_\_\_ of teaching and explaining the word of God
- what does Paul say about what he did for the \_\_\_\_\_ at Ephesus and his ministry there? Acts 20 tells us!

**Acts 20:27** for I did not shrink from \_\_\_\_\_ to you the whole counsel of God.

- Paul preached the \_\_\_\_\_ word of God
- this means we need to be looking at what the \_\_\_\_\_ teaches from Genesis to Revelation!
- there was a preacher in Southern Ontario who people always commented he was stuck on John 3:16
- every single sermon ended up in the message of John 3:16
- John 3:16 is a great passage and we have a wonderful loving God and Savior but there are thousands of other verses that say many things that we need to consider!
- Paul became a \_\_\_\_\_ to the task assigned to him by God to make the word of God fully known in all circumstances
- in these next two verses Paul speaks about the \_\_\_\_\_ with the use of the word mystery

## 2) (1:26-27) Christ In You

**(1:26) the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.**

- now when we all think about \_\_\_\_\_ we think about murder mysteries or things that are unsolved

- but in the New Testament when we hear the term "mystery" it refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ and resurrection of \_\_\_\_\_ Christ
- what Paul is teaching here is that the gospel has been \_\_\_\_\_ from people's understanding and thus the gospel is a \_\_\_\_\_ to them
- but thanks be to God, like this passage says, the \_\_\_\_\_ news of Jesus Christ and His grace is - \_\_\_\_\_ to His saints
- or to make things simple for us, Jesus Christ and His work is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Old Testament but Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ and clearly made known in the New Testament to \_\_\_\_\_

**(1:27) To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery,**

- here in this verse we see the \_\_\_\_\_ and the grace of God clearly spoken about
- God \_\_\_\_\_ to make known to the Gentiles the riches of the glory of this mystery which is the gospel of Jesus Christ
- we see pure \_\_\_\_\_ here, this mystery God chooses to \_\_\_\_\_ to people
- God in His \_\_\_\_\_ does this revealing
- God gives to people the Holy Spirit so they can \_\_\_\_\_ the riches of the Lord Jesus Christ
- the work of the Holy Spirit is to \_\_\_\_\_ of sin, righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ (John 16:7-11)
- the Holy Spirit reveals and \_\_\_\_\_ a person that they are a sinner
- the Holy Spirit reveals and \_\_\_\_\_ them that they need the righteousness of Christ
- the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ them of the judgment that they deserve because of their sin
- these are all \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord and graces from the Lord

**which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

- these two phrases are very important for the Christian

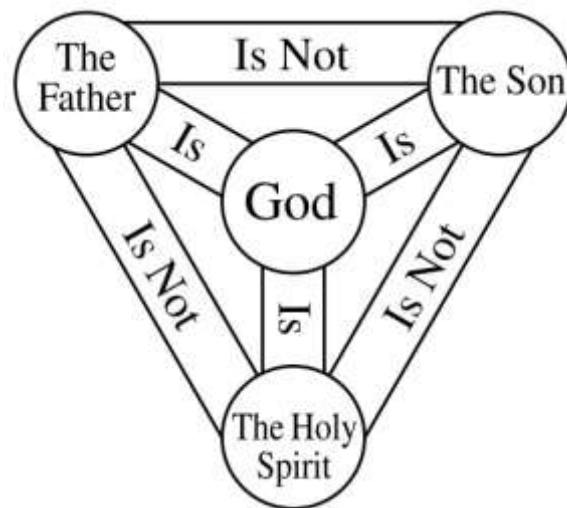
#### a) Christ In You

- when God \_\_\_\_\_ us He gives us \_\_\_\_\_ and this process is call regeneration
- at this point the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ within the believer
- because God is Trinity, He is \_\_\_\_\_ distinct persons and \_\_\_\_\_ God, thus when we have the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit dwelling within us we also have the presence of Christ and God the \_\_\_\_\_ within us

- the Lord Jesus does not leave us as an orphan but He gives to us the \_\_\_\_\_ of truth
- the Lord Jesus does not forsake us but gives us the - \_\_\_\_\_ , the Holy Spirit

- of course, this is a \_\_\_\_\_ that is given to us by Jesus Christ at the end of the gospel of \_\_\_\_\_ !

**Matthew 28:20** And behold, I am with you always, to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the age."



- what a blessing and \_\_\_\_\_ is it to know and to experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ in your life!

- it is amazing that as the Lord was with Joseph in Genesis so many times the same Lord is with us by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit

### b) The Hope Of Glory

- this \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel has other benefits, we have the \_\_\_\_\_ of glory

- Paul again is reminding us of the hope stored up for us in heaven

- oh the glory that awaits us, away from pain, suffering, death and other trials and we will have the full joy of the Lord and experience the \_\_\_\_\_ presence of the Lord!

- imagine if over the last two years we sought to ponder and experience these two \_\_\_\_\_, how different our lives would be!

### 3) (1:28-29) Christ Proclaimed

(1:28) Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

- Paul here speaks about \_\_\_\_\_ aspects of His ministry

a) proclaim – this is the word that is often used of publicly preaching the gospel or preaching the word of God

- this is the explanation and \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel and the whole Bible

b) warning – this speaking to people about the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and the dangers of the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ

- I know people get offended when Christians talk about \_\_\_\_\_ but the Bible speaks many times about the judgment of God

- people ought to be \_\_\_\_\_ that if they “walk in the counsel of the wicked, stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of scoffers” they will \_\_\_\_\_ !

c) teaching – this is giving instruction in Bible and Christian \_\_\_\_\_

- preaching, teaching and \_\_\_\_\_ cannot be replaced by emotional pep talks or motivational talks

- the people of God and those outside of Jesus all need preaching, teaching and warnings from the Word of God

- we are commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ it to them!

- the purpose of this teaching is plain and simple

- Paul does not \_\_\_\_\_ so that he can have more people in his congregation

- Paul does not \_\_\_\_\_ so that he can have more people listen to his podcast

- Paul does not \_\_\_\_\_ people so that he can have more views on YouTube

- Paul preaches, warns and teaches so that the believers in Jesus Christ might become \_\_\_\_\_ or complete in Jesus Christ

- Paul is not looking out for himself but he us \_\_\_\_\_ out for others as he labours and suffers so that they may \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord

- this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a true shepherd of the flock, he cares for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian and that each believer in Jesus Christ finishes well in the Lord

**(1:29) For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.**

- Paul is not a \_\_\_\_\_ follower of Jesus
- Paul is not a follower of Jesus who is afraid of \_\_\_\_\_ !
- two words are used to speak about Paul's work of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Paul \_\_\_\_\_ – which means he exerts himself physically, he strives for the sake of the gospel
  - b) Paul \_\_\_\_\_ – this is the word for agonizing
- this means to fight or work with intensity for Jesus Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_
  
- I need to say this again Paul was not afraid of \_\_\_\_\_ hard for the Lord
- but Paul does not do this on his \_\_\_\_\_
- do you see \_\_\_\_\_ Paul is able to carry out this intense work for the gospel?
- with His (God's) energy that powerfully works \_\_\_\_\_ him (Paul)!
- do you see the emphasis in this verse referring to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit?
- the Holy Spirit, who is power, works \_\_\_\_\_ within Paul, to do this ministry that is described as toil and struggling!

## Application

### 1) Look to the Suffering of Christ

- as we heard about the \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul in this passage we ought not to forget the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ which is the \_\_\_\_\_ that Paul is referring to here!
- think about what the Lord Jesus suffered for our \_\_\_\_\_ !
- let us look quickly at Mark 14-15! Mark 14-15 really fulfill the suffering servant or Messiah found in Isaiah \_\_\_\_\_  
- Mark 14:36-41 \_\_\_\_\_ prays in agony that the cup of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God would be taken from Him but only according to the will of God
- what do the disciples of Jesus do during this time? They \_\_\_\_\_ !
- Mark 14:43-50 – Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ by Judas but to make matters worse all the disciples of Jesus - \_\_\_\_\_ Him
- Mark 14:51-65 – Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ upon
- Jesus' face is covered and people hit and mock Him
- Mark 14:66-72 – although Peter says he would never deny Jesus, Peter \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus 3 times
- Mark 15:1-15 – Jesus is handed over to Pilate to be crucified and \_\_\_\_\_ is beaten with a whip
- Mark 15:16-20 – Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ by the soldiers and spat upon
- Mark 15:21-32 – Jesus is crucified which means that they drive \_\_\_\_\_ into his hands and his feet and nail Him upon a \_\_\_\_\_
- He is left in the hot sun to die a very slow and \_\_\_\_\_ death
- people walk by \_\_\_\_\_ and ridicule Him
- the criminals on the \_\_\_\_\_ even ridicule Him
- Mark 15:33-41 – God forsakes His son and Jesus cries out "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"
- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ by God as he bears the anger of God for the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus suffered for you, so that you could have \_\_\_\_\_ in You

- Jesus suffered for you, so that you could have the \_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of God in heaven

- in the hymn, "Man of Sorrows" this \_\_\_\_\_ is explained clearly

*Man of sorrows what a name for the Son of God, who came*

*ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

*Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood,*

*sealed my pardon with his blood: Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

- in order for the us to understand our \_\_\_\_\_ we must understand our marvelous savior

- let us ponder and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and His grace each day

- if you are not a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus there is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God

- if you stay in your sin, if you stay in your sinful thoughts, attitudes and actions you will \_\_\_\_\_

- but there is great \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ and He is a wonderful savior

- come to Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ upon Jesus, trust Jesus and His suffering for your sake so that you can have Christ in you and experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal life

## 2) Are You Willing to Suffer for Christ?

- when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith and suffering for Christ we often lack \_\_\_\_\_

- we should be as \_\_\_\_\_ as a lion, but we are more like the lion in "The Wizard Of Oz" who sang, "If I only had the nerve"!

- we, likely, all need to \_\_\_\_\_ that there is a little more of the lion who had no courage in us than we would like to think

- the question still stands for each one of us, "are we \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer for the sake of making Jesus known"?

- or are we going to have a "bunker \_\_\_\_\_"

- the "\_\_\_\_\_ church" is where we \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves, do not share our faith, \_\_\_\_\_ conversations where we have to share our faith and are inward focused

- basically the "bunker church" is the complete \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostle Paul

- I get it, none of us like to \_\_\_\_\_, none of us like to be teased and none of us like the awkwardness when someone gets mad when we \_\_\_\_\_ the work of the Lord Jesus with them

- but Jesus calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ out His mission

- there is no \_\_\_\_\_ that this mission is found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

- God did that by design because this \_\_\_\_\_ is important!

- Hear what Jesus says to the \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel of John

**John 20:21-23** <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am - \_\_\_\_\_ you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

- let us not be \_\_\_\_\_ in sharing our faith, let us not fear people and what they will think of us

- let us be a people who are empowered by the Holy Spirit, eager to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, teach Jesus and - \_\_\_\_\_ people of the judgment to come if they reject Jesus!