

COLOSSIANS 1 - “Greeting; Their Faith in Christ; Preeminence of Christ; Reconciled in Christ; Sacrificial Service for Christ!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

BE REMINDED OF WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW!

2Pe 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

2Pe 1:11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2Pe 1:12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

2Pe 1:13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

COLOSSIANS 1 - “Greeting;

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle (one sent) of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

Col 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Their Faith in Christ;

Col 1:3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:4 since we heard of your faith (validated by the object of faith) in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

Col 1:5 because of (on account of) the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Col 1:6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world (the Roman Empire), and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

Outline of Colossians 1:1-29 – The Preeminence of Christ!!

Many people today, like the false teachers at Colosse, will give Jesus Christ a place of eminence, but they will not give Him His rightful place of preeminence. He is not a “great man among great men”; He is God’s Son, preeminent in all things! In this first chapter, the apostle declares Christ’s preeminence in several areas of life.

I. Preeminent in the Gospel Message (Col 1:1-12)

- A. How they were saved.
- B. The evidences of their salvation.
- C. Paul’s prayer for their growth (Col 1:9-12).

II. Preeminent in the Cross (Col 1:13-14)

III. Preeminent in Creation (Col 1:15-17)

IV. Preeminent in the Church (Col 1:18-23)

V. Preeminent in Paul’s Ministry (Col 1:24-29)

v. 1 Paul: The author’s name is usually given first. Paul, probably in Roman custody, around A.D. 63 wrote this letter to those in Colosse. Most likely he had never visited the city....apostle of Jesus Christ by...will of God: Paul was qualified to write this letter, not that he had ever met them, but because he was *an apostle*. Timothy our brother: an honored companion of Paul, but not an *apostle*.

v. 2 ...saints and faithful brethren: Paul addresses the letter to all the *saints*, making no separation from those in the church. He does make a distinction with the phrase *faithful brethren*, referring to those who haven’t embraced the false teaching....Colosse: Likely the smallest and least important city that Paul ever wrote to. He apparently thought the situation there important enough for apostolic attention.

v. 3 Praying always... Though he had never met of them, they were on his prayer list. He prayed for them not just often, but always! We give thanks: Praying with a heart full of gratitude.

v. 4 Since we heard: Paul was thankful for their *faith in Christ Jesus* and their *love for all the saints*. Genuine *faith* in Jesus always produces a true *love* for God’s people.

vs. 5-7 Because of the hope..laid up for you: He was thankful for the *hope* laid up for them in heaven, who, as believers, had that sure promise. Which you heard before in the word of the truth: He was also thankful that their eternal destiny was affected by the *truth of the gospel*, brought by Epaphras (*as you also learned from Epaphras*), a *faithful minister*, one who serves, *of Christ on your behalf*. ... bringing forth fruit: Also he was thankful that the gospel was *bringing forth fruit* over *all the world*, even while and though Paul was in a Roman prison.

JESUS AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL – Matt Hamilton

Jesus at the center of it all. Jesus at the center of it all. From the beginning to the end, it will always be, it’s always been You, Jesus, Jesus (2)

Jesus at the center of my life. Jesus at the center of my life. From the beginning to the end, it will always be, it’s always been You, Jesus, Jesus (2)

From my heart to the heavens Jesus be the center. It’s all about You, It’s all about You. (2)

Jesus at the center of Your church. Jesus at the center of Your church. Every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess You, Jesus, Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus, Jesus.

v. 1 Notice Paul is coming with is mantle of apostleship, by the will of God. This permits him, with apostolic authority to address problems the Colosse church.

v. 2 What are the Biblical requirements to be a saint? – One who is faithful in Christ

v. 3 When we pray for other believers, are we thanking God for them? How big is your prayer list?

v. 4 How effective are we in loving “all” the saints, which we are to do?

vs. 5-6 “on account of hope laid up in heaven”- It’s interesting that in about 2 years from this letter, Colosse was destroyed by a major earthquake and there has been no more church there. **Wherein is your hope laid up? Are you aware that faith, hope and love all come from without, from above, from God and cannot be self-produced!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Col 1:7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, Col 1:8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Preeminence of Christ;

Col 1:9 For this reason (hearing all of the above) we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; Col 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in (by the increasing knowledge) the knowledge of God; Col 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed (rescued) us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

The Preeminence of Christ!!

Col 1:15 He is the image (express image) of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

v. 8...love in the Spirit: It was spiritual love, to distinguish it from a carnal and worldly one; they loved him for the spiritual grace that was in him, the spiritual gifts bestowed on him, the spiritual service he was engaged in, and his spiritual usefulness

vs. 9-11 To ask 1) that you may be filled with the knowledge (experiential knowledge of what pleases God) of His will: Firstly, Paul prayed that they would have a *knowledge of His will*, informed by a true spiritual understanding. Our first responsibility is to know God. 2) *That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him:* Secondly, he prayed that they would live in accordance with the same knowledge they received, living out a walk worthy of the Lord, which is a pattern, repeated over and over again in the New Testament. *Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.* This is the way we can be fully pleasing to God, walking worthily. *Fruitful in every good work.* 'Inclusively in 'every good work.' May works of obedience, testimony, zeal, charity, piety, and philanthropy all be found in your life, glorifying the Lord in **both the big and little things!** 3) *Strengthened with all might: In our walk worthy of the Lord, He strengthens us to meet and keep going in all of life's challenges, enduring and overcoming our problems with patience and longsuffering with joy.*

vs. 12-14 Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us (changing from "you" to us): In the divine administration, the Father is mentioned in connection with the broad sweep of His plan of redemption. He is the Person of the Trinity who initiates the plan of the ages. *To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints:* It is the Father who qualifies us, not our own works. We gain this as an inheritance, instead of earning it as a wage. *He has delivered us from the power of darkness:* Believers have been delivered from Satan's domain, rescued by His sovereign power....*conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love* (God's dear Son): In the sense of one empire conquering another, Paul says we have been conveyed into God's kingdom. Everything we have and everything we are now belongs to Him. *In whom we have redemption through His blood:* Redemption has the idea of release by a legal ransom. The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus. One reason of pleading the blood of Jesus is that it shows our receipt of our lawful purchase as redeemed people. *The forgiveness of sins:* The word translated forgiveness is the Greek word *aphesis*, literally rendered "a sending away." Our sin and guilt are sent away because of what Jesus did on the cross for us.

v. 15 The image (eikōn – likeness and manifestation, effulgence). The representation. Like looking in a mirror! The exact image. . Jesus is the very stamp (the direct imprint, exact replica) of God the Father as He was before the Incarnation. *Of the invisible God (tou theou tou aoratou).* Christ has made the invisible God visible. He who sees Jesus has seen God. *The first born* (prōtotokos). This word can describe either priority in time or supremacy in rank. As Paul used it here, he probably had both ideas in mind, with Jesus being before all created things and Jesus being of a supremely different order than all created things. That firstborn, the preeminent One over all creation. By Him all things were created! Not the first thing that came into existence. But He preexisted! the firstborn over all creation. Jehovah Witnesses say He is the firstborn of all creation –a grand angel, the brother of Lucifer, a created being!

v. 7 Paul is endorsing Epaphras. **How common is it for us to endorse others who are faithful in Christ?**

v. 8 Are we led by the spirit when we express and show our love for our brothers and sisters in the Lord?

v. 9 Do you pray in this way for others? Are we filled with the experiential knowledge of knowing what pleases God in our lives, God's will for you? Truly the most important thing in my whole life is to do the will of God!

v. 10 "may walk worthy" Does out walk confirm or reject out talk? How *fruitful* are we in every good work as we grow in our understanding of the Lord?

v. 11 How attractive is this? *"strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power"*! But notice this is in respect to *"all patience and longsuffering with joy"*! Can we say that by our increasing knowledge of Him and His strengthening, we have *patience and joy* in our *longsuffering* (tough circumstances and tough people)?

v. 12 For what reason are we told here that we stand as partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light?

v. 13 Don't forget the power of darkness! How thankful are we from being rescued from the power of darkness?

v. 14 We were slaves to sin. How thankful are we for being purchased, for being redeemed out of the slave market?

v. 15 Joh 14:9b He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? indicate that Jesus is less than God. *Joh 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. Do we understand "first born" (prōtotokos) can and does mean here, that Jesus Christ is the preeminent one?*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Col 1:16 For by (in) Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for (unto, toward) Him.

Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

v. 16 Notice the three prepositions here: *by Him, through Him* and *for Him*. For by him (and here we get it. If they would read it in context cults would have it. For by Him. Who? Jesus Christ!) *all things..* Used five times. *were created*, John said in the beginning was the Word, the Word, referring to Jesus, and the Word was with God and the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God and all things were made by Him? Without Him was not anything made that was made. Now Paul is making that same declaration. *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.:* Now, these are angels. These are rankings of angelic beings. He created all of the angels. So He created everything, Things that you see and things that you don't see. The Spirit realm, that we don't see, as well as the material realm, that we do see. He is the Creator! *Neh 9:6 You alone are the LORD;* You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. (the reason that they exist is because of You) The host of heaven worships You. *all things were created through him,* If He is the origin, it has to have a destiny too. Heaven is the real thing! His glory is the real thing! It's all by Him through Him! Science can't give us origins. Theologians explain origins - it's all through Christ, all headed toward Christ! (But Paul goes one step further) *and for him:* He is the object of all creation. He is not only the Creator but the object of creation. You were created for Him! *Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

v. 17 The word, *consist* (cohere), is literally, held together. When we talk about the creation of invisible things, it would include atoms --electrons, protons--He created all things. And we know that all matter is made up of invisible particles, known as atoms. Atoms are made up of electrons and protons. The nucleus of an atom is the proton, which has a positive charge. The electrons are the negative charges that spin around. Now Coulombs' law of electricity, speaks of the repelling force of positive charges. If you have played with magnets, you know what that's all about. You know that opposite poles attract and like poles, repel. Trying to put the positive poles of a magnet together, you find them repelling. **They push apart. For example - 1 gram of protons, (1/453 pound), one on each pole of the earth, 8000 miles apart. You would need 50,000# of pressure, to hold them together- the force to push apart would be that great.** But you put the opposite poles together and they attract. Now look at atomic fission, the way it was created was to take slow moving neutrons and bombard the nucleus of the atoms, the positive charges in the heart of the atom. And by bombarding the atom with these slow moving neutrons, they were able to upset the molecular balance. They were able to release the positive charges so that the positive charges responded according to their nature. and this is to repel each other. The tremendous atomic blasts are caused by the upsetting of the molecular structure of an atom, causing the positive charges to respond according of their own nature of repelling each other. As they repel we know the tremendous force that is generated when we release the atoms or the positive charges within an atom, they repel against each other. Now, it takes a stronger force than that which is released, to hold the atoms together. What holds it together? Jesus Christ! He's holding all things --He created all things. Now He sustains it all. If it weren't for Him everything wouldn't exist. The very nature of atomic structure, our whole universe should just be blown apart! As all of the positive charges in the nucleus of all the atoms, were released, it would, just, poof, it's all gone into oblivion! **Now Peter seems to speak about something like that happening one day as this whole universe is going to be disappearing, dissolved with a fervent heat. 2 Peter 3:10-But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** Tremendous! What will happen? God will just release His grip. The whole thing will go! Think of the power of Jesus, holding together all of the atoms in the universe! By Him all things are held together! The wonderful power of Jesus! Interesting facts of creation: A single human chromosome contains twenty billion bits of information. How much information is that? If written in ordinary books, in ordinary language, it would take about four thousand volumes. **The star Antares is 60,000 times larger than our sun.** If the sun were the size of a softball, the star Antares would be the size of a house.

v. 16 The proof is given here that Jesus was not a created being because we see *"For by Him all things were created!" that makes Him preeminent! For in Him all things were created, through Him and for - unto or toward- Him*

v. 17 Do we know and believe that He is holding everything together, that everything is sustained by Him. He is the cause. Everything that exists, exists by Him. If it wasn't for Him, everything would cease to exist.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Col 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

*Reconciled in Christ;
Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.
Col 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

Col 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

If the sun were the size of a beachball, and put on top of the Empire State Building, the nearest group of stars would be as far as way as Australia is to the Empire State Building. A star known as LP 327-186 is a so called white dwarf. It is smaller than the state of Texas; yet it is so dense that if a cubic inch of it were brought to earth, it would weigh more than 1.5 million tons. The earth travels around the sun about eight times the speed of a bullet fired from a gun. There are more insects in one square mile of rural land than there are human beings on the entire earth. **2Pe 3:10-11** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.[11] Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*

v. 18 *And He is the head of the body, the church:* Jesus Christ is the head of the body, His church. We, as members of the body of Christ. We re not here to run things. We are here to take orders. We are here to discover His will, what He wants for the church. Thus we seek His wisdom, His guidance. We make ourselves available to Him to be led by the Spirit, acknowledging that Jesus is the head of the church. He is the head of the body, the church. Not the Pope! **who is the beginning, the firstborn** (Again, the idea of the firstborn from the dead. So He was the first One to rise from the dead, not to die again. Lazarus was raised but only to die again. Jairus' daughter was raised only to die again.) **But He is the firstborn from the dead;** (ek-out from among) Lazarus, who were just resuscitated. The resurrection of Jesus Christ. It began with Him. It will end with the martyred saints. **that in all things he might have the preeminence** – (the head of everything!). Now, you are part of the "all things" that He created. Thus, you are part of the all things, in which He should have preeminence. The question is, HOW PREEMINENT IS HE IN YOUR LIFE? Is He above everything else? That, in all things, He should have the preeminence. Does He have the preeminence in my life, my voice, my attitude, cutting corners, stretching the truth? When we want to turn on pornography? Time – how good use am I making of time? Forgiving? Going the extra mile? Jesus wants to be with me! Or do I maintain some little control? Has He really gotten into my heart? Satan always tries to get rid of the Head! To cut the church off from the head!

v. 19 *It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness* (sum total) **Fullness (pleroma):** This was really just another way to say that Jesus is truly God. The fullness has been put into Jesus Christ. Not into a church; not into a priesthood; not into a building; not into a sacrament; not into the saints; not into a method or a program, but in Jesus Christ Himself. It was put into Him as a "distribution point" –so that those who wanted more of God and all that He is, could find it in Jesus Christ. **should dwell** –a sense of a permanent dwelling; Paul wanted to emphasize the idea that Jesus was not temporarily God, but is permanently God. That He has the preeminence. This is the Father's pleasure. That in him there should be such dignity, authority, power, and moral excellence as to be fitted to the work of creating the world, redeeming his people, and supplying everything needful for their salvation.

v. 20 *And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself:* Jesus' atoning work is full and broad. by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through Him. We had redemption through His blood, a little earlier. through the blood of His cross, That is, peace with God. Man was alienated from God. Man was at enmity with God. He was in rebellion against God. For sin is rebellion against God, against the law of God. But Jesus not only provided the forgiveness of our sins, but now He has made it possible for us to live at peace with God, through the blood of His cross because the sin is put away.

v. 21 *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled* - Who once were alienated: literally "transferred to another owner." This transfer of ownership, from God to Satan and self, has affected us in both mind and behavior. Belonging to the race of Adam, we are born alienated from God. Then as individuals, we each choose to accept and embrace that alienation with our wicked works. Once were alienated: But now though what Jesus has done, this means that in Jesus we are no longer alienated. The difference between a believer and a non-believer isn't merely forgiveness; there is a complete change of status. **Yet now He has reconciled:** That is, He has brought us together! He has brought us unto the Father. We are presented to God in Christ and by the blood of His cross. The war is over. We have peace with God now. We are reconciled unto God through Him!

v. 18 Here we see Jesus preeminence in that He is the head and/or source of the body of Christ, He is also the firstborn from the dead (never to die), proving victory over sin and death. **That in all things He may have the preeminence!** **Is Christ preeminent in your life? Is He above everything else? That, in all things, He should have the preeminence.**

v. 19 All of creation centers around Jesus Christ! He holds all things together. All creation points to Jesus and finds fulfillment in Him. **How true is that of our lives? Do we see ourselves as being more Christ like the closer we are to Him?**

v. 20 **Are you living at peace with God, through the blood of His cross, His perfect salvation, because all sin has been put away?**

v. 21 He has brought us, who were once lost, together! He has brought us unto the Father. And we are presented to God in Christ and by the blood of His cross. The war is over. We have peace with God now. **We are reconciled to God through Him!**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Col 1:22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven(whole human race, Jew & Gentile), of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Sacrificial Service for Christ!”

Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

*v. 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*That should just cause you start to shout! He is going to *present you, holy, blameless* in the sight of God! Glory! Hallelujah! That’s wonderful! One day when Jesus presents me to the Father, it is through Him that I will be presented. Believe it or not, holy, *blameless and above reproach in His sight!* But notice now, there is a warning!

v. 23 if (Since) indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.- if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, THIS IS A STRONG WARNING. It includes the danger against false teaching, which always takes away from who Christ is! **WE ARE TO STICK WITH CHRIST.** WHO, WHAT CAN COMPARE? It’s only when we lose the awesomeness of Christ that we give an ear to false teaching. By continuing in the faith there is nothing else to offer us, because we have everything in Christ. We have it all! Nothing can compare. What if you don’t continue in the faith? Then, it’s an uncertain future. But He is going to present us if we continue grounded and steadfast in the faith. Don’t worry about it. Don’t make it an issue. Just do it! Just abide in Him! It’s through faith in Him that you will be presented, holy and blameless and above reproach. We do need to remember that over and over, Paul warns that those who are living in sexually impure lives are not going to inherit the kingdom of God. You may say, but isn’t God a God of grace? Yes He is, but don’t use grace as a cloak to try and cover your immorality and idolatry.

This exhortation is so needed. It’s so important to recognize the perfect salvation that we that we have in His Son! We must not become casual to what we have in Him and ever to turn to anything else!

v. 24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you: Paul wrote this from a Roman jail. He was able to see that his **sufferings** worked something good for others, so he could say that his *sufferings* were *for* the Colossians and other Christians. *And fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ:* This word *afflictions* is never used of the suffering of Jesus on the cross. Most commentators see this as a reference to the affliction Jesus endured in ministry. *These afflictions*, never associated with the redemptive suffering of Jesus upon the cross, are not yet complete, and in this sense Jesus still “suffers” as He ministers through His people. *For the sake of His body, which is the church:* Paul did not suffer for *himself* in the way that an ascetic might. Instead he suffered *for the sake of* the body of Christ. Suffering does some amazing things....First, suffering draws us closer to Christ; Second, suffering produces assurance in our hearts; Third, suffering promises rewards in heaven; Fourth, suffering results in the salvation of others; Finally, suffering silences Satan.

v. 22 ...through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: That should just cause to shout! He is going to present you, **holy, unblameable and unreprouvable in the sight of God!** Glory! Hallelujah! That’s wonderful! One day when Jesus presents me to the Father, it is through Him that I will be presented - holy, unblameable and unreprouvable! But notice in the following verse, it’s conditional,

v. 23 Note this strong warning! This is an essential exhortation! We must continue in the faith, not to get casual about the truth of the gospel. This is serious business to give my ear to false teachers who can pull us away. **Are you, are we, continuing in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard? After this, what believer could even think about considering anything false compared to what He has done for us! What can compare? Everything else is infinitely inferior! Do you like or dislike this exhortative text?**

v. 24 Paul says he rejoices in his sufferings and that suffering makes up what is lacking in our minor sufferings compared what Jesus suffered. He looks past the sufferings, past the hardships to the glory that was going to be revealed. Even as Jesus looked past the cross to the glory of being able to forgive your sins! We may go through some hardships, but, oh my, the glory that shall be revealed! So he looked beyond the suffering to the glory of the Kingdom of God that was going to be revealed. So it’s important that we have our minds set on the eternal glory of God that is going to be bestowed upon us.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Col 1:25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill (to preach the whole counsel of God) the word of God,
Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

Col 1:27 To them (Both Jews & Gentiles) God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect (Spiritual adults not babes in Christ; mature and ripened Christians) in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

vs. 25-26 Of which I became a minister: Paul was a **minister** - that is, a *servant* of the body of Christ, the church. He did not take this position on his own initiative, but *according to the stewardship from God*. God put Paul into this position, he did not put himself. *The word of God, the mystery which has been hidden:* In the Biblical sense, a *mystery* is not a riddle. It is a truth that can only be known by revelation and not by intuition. *Now* it can be known, because it *now has been revealed to His saints*. *Hidden from ages and generations:* This reminds us that there are aspects to God's plan that *were not* clearly revealed in the Old Testament. The specific **mystery** Paul refers to here deals with many aspects of the work of Jesus in His people, but especially the plan of the church, to make one body out of Jew and Gentile, taken from the "trunk" of Israel, yet not Israel. "The mystery is this: that God had designed to grant the Gentiles the same privileges with the Jews, and make them his people who were not his people. That this in what Paul means by the **mystery**,

v. 27 the riches of the glory of this mystery- that Jesus **would actually indwell believers**. *This mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you:* The wonder and glory of the abiding, indwelling Jesus was not clearly revealed in the Old Testament, especially that He would abide in *the Gentiles*. Therefore, this aspect of the work of Jesus in His people was a **mystery** that wasn't revealed until the time of Jesus and the apostles. This means that God is revealed to us in Jesus. *Christ in you, the hope of glory:* This is the Christian's *hope of glory*. It isn't our own hard work or devotion to God, or the power of our own spirituality. **Instead, it is the abiding presence of Jesus: Christ in you.**

vs. 28-29 Him we preach: This was the focus of Paul's preaching. He didn't preach himself, or his opinions, or even lots and lots of entertaining stories. He preached *Jesus*. **Warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom:** Paul wanted the whole gospel for the whole world. He wouldn't hold back in either area - it was for **every man**, and he presented it *in all wisdom*. Some translate the word **warning** as "counseling." The ancient Greek verb *nouthetountes* means, "To impart understanding," "to lay on the mind or the heart." The stress is on influencing not only the intellect, but also the will and disposition. It describes a basic means of education. The work of **warning** - or helping to impart understanding - was a passion for Paul in ministry (*Act 20:31*). It is also the job of church leaders (*1Th 5:12*) and of the church body in general (*Col 3:16*), providing that they are *able* to admonish others (*Rom 15:14*). *That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:* The goal of Paul's ministry was to bring people to maturity in Christ, and not to dependence upon himself. This work was for **every man**. In contrast, the false teachers at Colosse "believed the way of salvation to be so involved that it could be understood only by a select few who made up sort of a spiritual aristocracy." **Striving** (competing) *according to His working which works in me mightily:* Paul's work was empowered by God's mighty strength. But God's strength in his life didn't mean that Paul did nothing. He worked hard *according to His working*.

vs. 25-26 We are told that Paul is ministering God's purpose and God's plan, being accomplished in and through him, *a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God. He is ministering even the mystery*, revealing now what God does for those who will put their trust in His Son, Jesus Christ. The things that God will do for them to enhance and enrich their lives. So even this mystery which has been hid from the ages, from the generations, throughout the Old Testament, but is now made manifest to His saints. God is now revealing it.

v. 27 Although not fully revealed in the Old Testament, this mystery is Christ in you, the hope of glory is making known to both Jews and Gentiles! That Christ will come and dwell within you at your invitation. That you can experience the indwelling power of Jesus Christ. Christ in you, the hope of glory! What a fabulous, glorious truth! Because when we look at what God has required and desired of us, we realize that we can't do that. My flesh is too weak. **I can't accomplish that. That's more than I can do. I can't live that kind of a holy life. So what does He do? He comes and He dwells in Me and He gives me the power to be what I couldn't be. He gives me the power what I can't do! Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

v. 28 Paul tells us the purpose of his warning and his teaching, is his desire that we may be presented perfect in Christ Jesus!

v. 29 We are told here that Paul is so concerned for salvation of mankind, that he is *striving according to God's working, which works in him mightily*. **Christ in me, the hope of glory! Christ in you, the hope of glory! The glorious mystery of the church! The indwelling presence of Christ in our life! Giving us that power that we need.**

COLOSSIANS 1 - “Greeting; Their Faith in Christ; Preeminence of Christ; Reconciled in Christ; Sacrificial Service for Christ!”

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION