

COLOSSIANS

MEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Four: The Joy of Suffering Colossians 1:24-2:5

Paul Goebel - October 5, 2021

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

2 ¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Table Discussion Questions

1. What is the Prosperity Gospel? Has any aspect of prosperity theology seeped into your own understanding of God?
2. In what ways did they Apostle Paul suffer? How have you experienced suffering in your own life? How has God used suffering in your life to deepen your relationship with Him?
3. How did the Apostle Paul "(fill) up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions"? (See Colossians 1:24) What does this teach us about the role of suffering in the Christian life?
4. How does suffering mature our faith? Is there any part our your faith that is immature?
5. What does it mean to share in the sufferings of Christ? How have Christ's sufferings led to our greatest joy?