

08-11-13

Title: Jesus in you

Colossians 1:18

Jesus is the head of all things

Jesus is the Creator of all things

Jesus keeps all things going – sustains them

Jesus died and rose again making reconciliation with the Father possible – we can come into His presence

We should stay strong in the truth of the Gospel

Paul presents himself as a servant of God's plan

A servant of the Messiah and His church

God's plan is important for all people to know

Understanding who Jesus is, is most important

Growing in our knowledge of Him

Knowledge of Him who is the head

Ministry

Colossians 1:23, 25

...and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Of this church I was made a minister...

Paul was made a minister of the Gospel and of the church

Wasn't at all what Paul had planned

He had been part of religious elite in Judaism

Persecuting the church – *breathing out threats and murder*

On his way to cause more trouble for church in Damascus

God gets ahold of him

Turns his world upside down

Interesting to consider...

Paul didn't volunteer – he was appointed

This was God's gracious gift to him

God has called all of us, appointed us, to serve Him

In one capacity or another...

Colossians 1:25

...according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit

Stewardship – compound word in Greek

House and manage

Means to manage a household – steward of someone else's possessions

Position of steward was one of great trust and responsibility

Paul regards himself as a steward, a servant

1 Corinthians 9:16-17

The church is the household of God

We all have the responsibility to manage the ministries the Lord has given us

Our gifts are given to help others

Rejoicing

Colossians 1:24

- *Now I rejoice*

Paul had joy in his ministry

As he should... as we all should

O great, I have to vacuum the floor again

Can you believe someone left this mess?

Do you know how many times I have to pick up my kids Bibles?...

Many behind the scenes activities go unnoticed...

The story is told of the foreman on a building site who asks one of the builders what he is doing. The builder replies, "I'm breaking rocks."

Another worker is asked the same question, and he answers, "I'm earning for my family."

The question is posed to a third worker. With a glint in his eye, he responds, "I'm building a cathedral."

What does Paul say? Rejoice

We have enough people here to make a mess...

What a ministry to clean up after others???

Do you know who waters the plants?
Who makes the coffee?
How does the floor get cleaned every week?
Who puts the songs up every week?
Who picks up the old bulletins?
Who painted all the amazing things for VBS?
The list is endless
Thank you to everyone

All these should be done with joy
Joy in our service to the Lord

Our joy should be internal
Paul did get discouraged by his circumstances – he
maintained his joy
He was afflicted in every way but not crushed
He was perplexed but not despairing
He was persecuted but not forsaken
He was struck down, but not destroyed

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Paul knew that God was in absolute, complete control

Circumstances, people and worry can steal our joy in ministry
Humility, devotion to Jesus, trust in God will protect our joy

Suffering

- *...and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.*

Paul is putting into practice what he talked about in **verse 11 & 12**

We can endure suffering b/c
It is God's power that strengthens
His power gives us steadfastness
He has qualified us to share with the saints
He has given us an inheritance

Paul often talks about joy and suffering
Particularly when the suffering is related to proclaiming the gospel

2 Timothy 1:12

Paul is suffering for the sake of the Gospel

And... Paul is suffering for the sake of the Colossians
Paul's suffering at this time was imprisonment
Paul could still rejoice

He was a prisoner of Jesus, not the Roman Empire
It was considered a privilege to suffer for the name
of Jesus in the early church
How do we often view such suffering today?

William Carey, often called the father of modern missions, faced a ministry disappointment of overwhelming proportions. Carey began his missionary career to India in 1793. He labored in that country for 40 continuous years, never once returning to his native England. Carey was a prodigious translator, translating portions of Scripture into over a dozen Indian languages.

One afternoon after 20 years of plodding labor in that country, a fire raged through his printing plant and warehouse. All of his printing equipment was destroyed, but most tragically, many of his precious manuscripts were completely consumed by the fire. Of course, Carey had no computer backup files or Xerox masters. Twenty years of nonstop labor were gone within a few hours.

How would he respond to this crushing devastation? Carey wrote to his pastor-friend, Andrew Murray, in England:

The ground must be laboured over again, but we are not discouraged. . . . We have all been supported under the affliction, and preserved from discouragement. To me the consideration of the divine sovereignty and wisdom has been very supporting. . . . I endeavored to improve this our affliction last Lord's Day, from Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I principally dwelt upon two ideas:

God has a sovereign right to dispose of us as he pleases.

We ought to acquiesce in all that God does with us and to us.

God has the right to do as He pleases

We should submit in all that God does with us and to us

This is the proper use of Paul's body, his life

Using it for the body, the life of the church, Messiah's body
Was Jesus' suffering not enough?

It is finished, it is complete
Just finished learning Jesus is everything
Nothing else is needed – verses 20-23

Nothing needs to be added to Jesus' death
Salvation was completed on the cross
Now is he saying we have to suffer to finish our salvation?

Paul suffered in his body, endured pain of persecution
For the sake of the Gospel
How could his sufferings fill up what is lacking?
Nothing is lacking...

Paul's persecutions were intended for Jesus
Jesus is out of reach – in heaven
Jesus' enemies' hatred of Him has been turned on
His followers – those who preach the gospel

John 15:18-19

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Paul's suffering is for Jesus' sake
Not adding to it – for Jesus' suffering is complete – it paid all
His suffering is also for the sake of the church

Fully carry out

Colossians 1:25

... so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,
Paul is a servant of the gospel
Paul is a servant of the church
To be a servant of this body
Is to serve the head of the body, which is Jesus

Paul's purpose, his goal, his aim was to do God's will
Nothing more, nothing less – how many of us can say that?
His desire was to preach all of God's counsel
Never shirking his duty

How many missionary journeys did Paul make?

3/4

To where?

Same basic area

Had plans to go further – died before realized

Mainly the area around Greece, and into Italy in the end

Amazing impact for such a small area

How far did Jesus go?

Never left Palestine

How much of an impact has He had?

It is not the distance, or the extent of our ministry that is important

It is our faithfulness in what God has called us

Fully carry out...

Jesus is also our example here

He did the will of the Father

He worked on the Father's time table

My hour has not yet come...

His focus was the Father's focus

The lost sheep of Israel

Maintained His focus on God's kingdom – couldn't be drawn into political controversies

Out of His large group of followers – chose 12 – of those focused on 3

Paul was human and did make mistakes

Yet his goal was to do God's will

To faithfully preach the word where God called him

Rejoice in what has called us to do...

Understand that there may be suffering...

Finish the course, carry out what we've been called to...

The Mystery

Colossians 1:26

What is this mystery?

Are we getting into mystical things?

Just for some special, elite group

Some secret order...

Part of the problem Paul is combating w/ the Colossians

OT term referring to God's promise to be fulfilled in the future

This mystery is God's plan from Genesis

Serpents head would be crushed by woman's seed

All nations blessed in Abraham's seed

David's son who sits on throne forever...

These things were mysteries not clearly known

Not until the Messiah came and fulfilled them

The mystery refers to the gospel – all or one aspect of it

Here it is the inclusion of the Gentiles

The mystery always points to God's powerful work through Jesus

- *...but has now been manifested to His saints*

Manifested – disclosed or revealed

The mystery has been manifested

It has been revealed – no longer a mystery

We have now seen it

Colossians 1:27

God wants this to be known

It is His desire

Made known to the saints

God's amazing plan to restore our relationship with Him

Christ in you

- *...Christ in you, the hope of glory*

This is the mystery – the most profound

Jesus is the hope of glory

The Messiah in our lives, in us
We have Jesus, the Messiah, living inside of us

The only son of a widow runs off to sea when a lad. She needs to work for her living, and takes lodgers in her little home. After years have passed, a bronzed and bearded sailor comes to her door stay for a while. She has no idea who has come to dwell beneath her roof - it is a secret, a mystery.

By and by, one day as they are sitting at the midday meal, a remark, a gesture, startles her; she looks hard into the stranger's face, recognizes him, and, with a cry, rushes into his arms and cries out of her joy: "My son, my son, what deceived my old eyes, that I didn't know you!"

Then he says, "Mother, how hard life has gone with you; your hands are hard with toil. But see, I have plenty of money, and we will share it all. You will never have to do a stroke of hard toil." That is the riches of the glory of the mystery.

At our conversion Jesus comes into our lives to live. He is often unrecognized; we need to be aware of the nature and worth of our Heavenly Friend. Realize that all His riches are ours, to be shared and enjoyed; that all our needs may be fully met, even to the abundance of His unsearchable riches;

If you have repented and trusted Jesus, He is living in you

When we repent and trust Jesus as Savior
We have the hope of glory, the hope of eternal life
He is living in us, this is the blessed hope
The appearing of the glory of our Great God and
Savior, Jesus the Messiah
Jesus in us is our anchor, our hope of eternal life

Conclusion:

The great mystery – Jesus in you
The God of the universe dwelling with us
Living in and through our lives
How amazing is that
Incomprehensible...

Think about the mystery that has been clearly revealed to us
Jesus, the promised Messiah, will live inside us

We have a great hope, a sure hope, an eternal hope

God calls us first to salvation
Have you responded?

God also calls us, each of us to ministry?
What is yours? Where are you serving?
Serving in His power and His strength
Should be done with joy
Know that suffering may be involved
Finish the task, carry it out

Benediction:

Galatians 2:20

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Sermon outline
08-11-13
Colossians 1

M _____

- R _____
- S _____
- Fully c _____ out

The M _____

C _____ in you