

SERMON | JESUS BROUGHT HOPE

SERIES | CHRISTMAS SEASON

STUDY GUIDE | DAVID STOCKTON | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

SERMON SUMMARY

What Paul was saying to the church family in Colossi was what he had experienced personally. That the hope Jesus brings into a person's life is so powerful and strong, it can make them rejoice in sufferings. Because Jesus' promise is that no suffering we endure is meaningless. Every second of our suffering Jesus will use to benefit someone else and draw us closer to Him. Like the suffering of a woman in childbearing gives life to a newborn baby. There is purpose in suffering. The suffering can and will be used to usher in something well worth it. Cling to that hope.

How do we receive this hope? How does the hope of heaven enter into our here and now?

In Colossians 1:27, Paul says for a long time it was a great mystery. A mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. Christ in you. The great mystery is that just like Jesus entered into our world through incarnation, Jesus' Spirit can enter into our bodies through indwelling.

For some of you, your life has become something far different than what you hoped it would be. You had hope of living out your days with a spouse and now they are gone. Maybe you lost a child to death or rebellion. Maybe you lost a friend or your health.

The book of Proverbs teaches us that hope deferred makes the heart sick. When we feel this sickness, this despair, we have options. Some run to alcohol which numbs the pain but poisons the mind. Narcotics is another thing people receive into their bodies, which makes you feel false hopeful feelings, yet strips away your life and sanity, leaving you needy with addiction. But there is another option for the pain and despair. Something else you can receive into you bodies. It is the hope Jesus brings. Christ In you, the Hope of Glory!

Rejoice, for Christ turned suffering into something hopeful. Christ's hope brings endurance and stamina. You can't have Christ's hope without receiving Christ. But, if you receive Christ, you get everything.

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGES: Colossians 1:24-27 (ESV)

Paul's Ministry to the Church

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.**

BIBLE PASSAGE QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do we learn about the heart of God from these passages?

Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. How is your level of hope these days?
2. Have you been in a season where hope was hard to find, or experienced hope deferred?
3. Have you experienced rejoicing in your suffering?
4. What have you clung to in life to bring forth hope? How has this drawn you closer in your relationship with Jesus?
5. Do you have Christ in you?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

