

**“what was
suffered for you”**

Colossians 1:24-2:5

“what was suffered for you”

Colossians 1:24-27

24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. **25** I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness —

26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. **27** To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

“what was suffered for you”

“Paul does not mean that Christ’s saving work on the cross is deficient in some respect. Rather, because the church is called to suffer for Christ, there is a divinely appointed requisite of suffering to be endured by Christians.”

Reformation Study Bible

“what was suffered for you”

Romans 5:3-5

3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

“what was suffered for you”

2 Corinthians 11:23-30

23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26** I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. **28** Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. **29** Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? **30** If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

“what was suffered for you”

Ephesians 3:2-6

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that was given to me for you, **3** that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. **4** In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

5 which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. **6** This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

“We proclaim him”

Colossians 1:28-29

28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. **29** To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

“We proclaim him”

“But the Christ we preach must be the full Christ as taught by the apostles. This is to say that people cannot know Christ better without knowing the Scriptures better. It is only through an expository ministry that the Word of God can be fully known: and it is only through the Word of God that Christ can be fully known. There is no shortcut for pastors or impatient believers. Such Bible teaching and Bible study is the crying need of the church today.”

“We proclaim him”

“The gospel is not a system, hierarchy, or set of regulations. It is the person and work of Jesus, which is, indeed, the message.”

Richard Melick

“We proclaim him”

“The Old Testament predicted a Gentile response to the Lord. For generations few, if any, knew how this would be accomplished.

God revealed it to Paul, however, who saw that the Gentiles could know Christ among them as their hope of participation in glory.

Although there were struggles in the ministry, this revelation from Scripture motivated Paul

to spread the message of salvation to the churches, a task which brought with it so many personal sufferings on their behalf.”

“My purpose”

Colossians 2:1-5

1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. **2** My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. **5** For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

“My purpose”

“The ultimate goal, for Paul, was to “know the mystery of God, namely Christ” in the fellowship of the church. The statement is comprehensive, involving a complete knowledge of Christ.”

Richard Melick

“My purpose”

“The real threat[to the church] was that they might be deceived by a fast line or by smooth talk.

The church had to learn to see beyond the fine-sounding language of the heretics to the empty and damning arguments they were presenting.

“My purpose”

Thus, it was to grow in the knowledge of Christ to avoid the deceitful traps of heretical arguments. These heretical arguments came in the appearance of deeper theology. In reality, they were subtle inroads of heresy.”

“My purpose”

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. **15** It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

“My purpose”

- **“Your best life now”**
- **“God wants you to be rich”**
- **“God doesn’t want you to get sick”**
- **“Demand God to give you whatever you want and He will!”**
- **“If you don’t have a Holy Ghost experience you're not saved”**

Applications

- **Pray for discernment**
- **Stay in the Word**
- **Stay in community**

Final Thoughts

“The key is centering on Christ and grounding yourself in His Word. Learn daily about the Savior. Study the Bible. Develop your theological knowledge. Stay humble and curious about the amazing complexity of the world God has made.

Ask lots of questions about the assumptions behind ideas new to you. Press on toward wisdom. Pray for understanding. God has given us minds for learning—never quit using yours.”

Final Thoughts

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

22 Jews demand signs and
Greeks look for wisdom, **23** but
we preach Christ crucified: a
stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles,

24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.