

LESSON 4
COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:5

Review your memory verses from Colossians. Yes _____. (Please check).

Memorize Colossians 1:28, 29. ____ Done. Said to _____.

1. Give an instance where you recently remembered one of the memory verses from Colossians and were helped in a circumstance you faced.

Read Colossians in one sitting.

2. What one idea most stands out to you?

Read Colossians 1:24-2:5 three times ____ 1 ____ 2 ____ 3.

3. In the preceding verses Paul warns the Colossians to continue in their faith and not be moved from their hope in Christ. He wants them to hang in there! Beginning with verse 24, what example of endurance does he give them?
4. Verse 24 says "Now I rejoice in my sufferings." Remembering what you learned about where Paul was when he wrote this letter, *what* situation found him rejoicing?

In verse 24, the phrase "fill up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions" (NASB) needs to be understood. Kenneth Wuest points out that the Greek word used here for *afflictions* is never used for the vicarious sufferings of the Lord Jesus. In other words, nothing more than Christ's death on the cross is required for the payment and forgiveness of sins. We don't have to add to what Jesus has done to get God to receive sinners. However, just as Jesus suffered while here on earth to bring the word of God's hope to the world, so His followers will also suffer as they spread the word of good news. This is what verse 24 speaks of. This can be seen in verses 25-29. For further light on this subject, see Philippians 3:10, I Corinthians 15:31, II Corinthians 1:5-7; 4:10-12 and Acts 9:16.

5. Paul sees his suffering here as purposeful and therefore a cause for rejoicing. For what purpose was he suffering?

6. Read Colossians 1:25. How does his commission or stewardship *from God* relate to his ability to rejoice in his suffering?

7. How do the above principles relate to *your* life?

Read Colossians 1:26-29. A mystery in Scripture means hidden knowledge that we can only know through revelation from God.

While God reveals some mysteries such as the one mentioned in this section of Scripture, there will always be some mysteries in life we don't understand; for God's ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9).

8. What is this mystery and to whom has it been revealed in Colossians 1:26-29?

9. What implication does this have for you? For your friends?

10. What is the goal of Paul's ministry (verse 28)?

11. According to verse 28, what two ways does Paul use to accomplish this goal?

12. Explain the process going on in verse 29 that Paul relies on to accomplish this goal (i.e. my part and God's part).

13. How will remembering *both* parts of the process help you walk worthy of the Lord? Which do *you* usually forget?

Read Colossians 2:1-5.

14. Compare Colossians 4:12 with Colossians 2:1. As you compare these verses, what do they suggest is included in the struggle which Paul had on their behalf?

15. From Colossians 2:2 what things does he want for the believers who haven't seen him? (That includes us, you know.)

16. Using a dictionary, define:

a) wisdom

b) knowledge

c) hidden

d) reassure

17. What does verse 3 mean to your life? (Try to answer this in down-to-earth words.)

18. *Discipline* in verse 5 (in the NASB) conveys the idea of orderliness (NIV). What does Paul rejoice about in their lives in this verse?

19. From this section, how did Paul relate to others?

20. From seeing how Paul related to others, I plan to –