

Rolling Hills Community Church
“In Christ Alone”

- A Study of the Book of Colossians
September 9, 2007

Christ in the Church
Colossians 1:24-2:5

“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.” Vs. 24

Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of Christ on behalf of His church. Just as Christ is the head of creation (vs. 15-16), so Paul expresses, Christ is the head of the church.

“I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.” Vs. 25-26

Paul viewed himself as a servant of God’s church.

“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.” Vs. 27

Paul understood his calling to reveal Christ to the Gentiles.

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

We must understand our calling - to present everyone perfect (“perfect” means “mature”) in Christ. We do not do this on our own, but only as we allow Christ to work through us.

“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.” Vs. 1

Who do you “struggle” for on behalf of Christ?

“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, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Vs. 2-3

What is your “purpose” when it comes to struggling for God’s church?

“I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.” Vs. 4

Remember, the reason Paul is writing this letter is to refute false teachings that were beginning to creep into the church. Paul knew that suffering and struggles would either draw these early believers closer to Christ or lead them away from Him.

“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.” Vs. 5

How firm is your faith in Christ and how passionate are you in your struggle?