

Suffering and Striving for the Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:24-29

A. Context: Bearing the fruit of the Gospel because of Christ's redemption

1. The Gospel, announced and _____ by the Preeminent One, always bears fruit in the lives of believers when it is heard and truly understood.
2. Once _____ of God, believers have been redeemed by Christ and _____ for holy living through the Spirit.

B. Suffering for the body of Christ is cause for _____ when we understand God's grand design. v.24-26

1. Paul's joy was not due to _____ itself, but suffering _____ which Jesus died for and to which Paul was called to minister. (2 Corinthians 1:3-7, 4:7-12)
2. If we _____ the mystery of God and that we are a part of Christ's body, we will be able to see suffering for what it really is—the _____ to build up the Church and experience a deeper level of _____ with Jesus. (1 Peter 4:12-16)

C. The glorious _____ of the Gospel and eternal hope of the believer is realized when Christ _____ in us. v.27

1. Paul reminded the Colossians that the great _____ of God was (and is) for reconciliation; their hope and confidence was found in their _____ with Christ. (Romans 16:25-27)
2. The glory and mystery of the Good News has not _____ for us; our faith and our obedience becomes real when our identity is _____ identity. (Ephesians 1:3-10, 1 Timothy 3:14-16)

D. Proclaiming Christ, with the purpose of seeing every person _____ in their relationship with Him, is the _____ for which we must strive. v.28-29

1. Paul _____ his life, by the working and energy of Jesus, in proclaiming Christ and seeking to _____ all people mature in Him. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)
2. Everything we think, say, and do can (and should) _____ of Jesus if we are in Him, living and _____ for His kingdom with His powerful Spirit at _____ in us. (1 Timothy 6:11-16, Hebrews 12:1-3)

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A. 1-accomplished, 2-enemies, outfitted, B.-rejoicing, 1-suffering, for the Body, 2-comprehend, opportunity, communion, C.-mystery, lives, 1-plan, unity, 2-changed, Christ's, D.-complete, goal, 1-expended, present, 2-speak, contending, work