

THE CHURCH'S GOAL: MATURITY IN CHRIST

Colossians 1.24-2.5

CHRIST USES US TO CONTINUE THE WORK

Colossians 1.24-26 // Philippians 1.29, 30, 3.10

When we suffer for Jesus, we advance the message and continue the mission of the Gospel by displaying the sufficiency of Christ. We reveal His suffering through ours, because of our union with Him.

Acts 9.4, 5 // John 15.18-21 // 2 Corinthians 1.5 // Mark 13.13

BECOMING A MATURE CHURCH

Colossians 1.27, 28 // Matthew 28.19, 20 // Ephesians 4.11-16

A Disciple Defined:

**A Life Growing In and Giving Out
the Gospel of the Grace of Christ.**

To be a disciple means that we live a life that our love and dependence on the Gospel is growing, but that our desire to share that truth with others is also growing. To be a disciple, then, means that we must have a regular inlet of the Gospel into our hearts and minds if we want to be filled and overflowed.

Earlier church fathers called these "conduits" of God's grace "the Means of Grace." It isn't that they are the *only* ways God gives grace, but they are the most normative and efficient.

The Means of Grace:

- The Word of God
- Prayer
- Community

John 5.38-40, 6.28, 29

**We are changed not by being told what to do;
we are changed by being told what Christ has done for us.**

UNIFIED WITH CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

Colossians 1.29-2.5 // John 17.1-26



NOTES:

Other Suggested Resources:

Pastor Matt Chandler speaking on Colossians 1.24
www.thevillagechurch.net/sermon/the-afflictions-of-christ/

Pastor Tullian Tchividjian speaking on Colossians 1.24-2.5, click on Part 8
www.crpc.org/resources/sermons/series/colossians

Daily Devotionals:

Monday: Colossians 1.24-26 // Philippians 1.29, 3.10
Tuesday: Acts 9.4, 5 // John 15.18-21 // 2 Corinthians 1.5 // Mark 13.13
Wednesday: Colossians 1.27, 28 // Matthew 28.19, 20 // Ephesians 4.11-16
Thursday: John 5.38-40, 6.28, 29
Friday: Colossians 1.29-2.5 // John 17.1-16
Saturday: Colossians 1.24-2.5 // John 17.17-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BAPTISM, PARENT DEDICATION & PICNIC

Join us after church next Sunday, October 6th as we not only celebrate 1 Year after our first Life Mission meeting, but also a **Baptism and Picnic!** Bring a picnic, lawn chairs, blankets, a baseball glove, and if you would like to get baptized, swim trunks and a change of clothes! Email jobey@lifemission.tv if you would like to be baptized!

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING

If you ordered a book, they are available to pick up at the **Connection Booth** in the Courtyard. Please bring \$14 if you have not already paid. If you would like to order one still, it's not too late! Sign up today!

KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out www.lifemissionchurch.com and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

..... **Jesus + Nothing = Everything Reading Plan**

Chapter 2, pages 25-31
Six pages...you can do it!



SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

CONTACT US:

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Colossians 1.24-2.5**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? _____

No doubt the phrase "filling up what is lacking" sticks out to you. Did the sermon help clear any confusion you may have had on that? What do you think Paul is saying, and what do you think he is definitely *not* saying? _____

What are some ways that you have suffered in some way for your faith? Read **Acts 9.3-6**. What is significant about what Christ asks Saul? How does this change the way you see times in your life when you have suffered for the sake of your faith in Christ? _____

How do you think suffering has a unique way of spreading the Gospel? _____

Read **Colossians 1.28** and **Ephesians 4.11-16**. What does Paul say his (and the church's) main goal in his ministry is? _____

God's heart for His church is that we would be mature disciples. Our working definition of a disciple is "**A Life Growing In and Giving Out the Gospel of the Grace of Christ.**" How are ways and examples that a disciple both grows in and also gives the grace of the Gospel to others? _____

What is significant about the inclusion of the word "a life *growing* in" these things?

Sanctification is an often slow and tedious process; it is a marathon, not a race. Our hope is to see, as Paul said, "everyone mature in Christ" by teaching the church how to stay connected to the power of the Gospel each day, for every event in life. Look at the "Means of Grace" in the sermon notes. How can each of these vehicles bring you to the Gospel in a way that can change you and disciple you? _____

How has your time so far digging into Colossians helped you see a bigger picture of Christ and the Gospel, and how has that affected your life? Do you sense your heart and mind being enlarged by the Gospel? In what ways? _____

Next Sunday, we will be having a baptism! If you have not been baptized, now is the time! Also, next week we will be going through one of the most Gospel-rich texts in the bible. **Please invite your unbelieving friends to join us next week!**