

SOLD OUT

LESSON 3 | CHRIST CENTERED, CHRIST EMPOWERED

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Colossians 1:24-29

“Now I rejoice in what I am suffering 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. 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 Lord’s people. 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. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end, I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.”

The Big Idea

Paul’s revelation of Christ dramatically impacted how he viewed every aspect of life. Like Paul, we can be transformed by the revelation of our position in Christ. Even suffering can now be seen as something to be embraced for the cause of Christ. This revelation is not just a personal one but is one of cosmic proportions. “Christ in you, the hope of Glory!” Jesus Christ, God the Son, is in you, and you are in Him. What union, what fellowship, what empowerment we can experience daily? It is no wonder that the proclamation and advancement of Christ consumed and gave purpose to Paul’s life.

Not only does Christ give us purpose and identity but His presence and union gives us power. The presence of Christ energized Paul as he contended for the gospel with all his might. What an example of working with Christ! Like Paul, we should not lay back and expect Jesus to do all the work, but neither should we think it is all up to us. As we push with everything we have for the sake of the gospel, we should all the while be conscious that it is Christ’s power working through us.

The Conversation

1. How does the revelation of our purpose and position in Christ impact the way we view suffering?
2. What is the significance of Paul’s statement: “Christ in you the hope of glory”?
3. What does it look like to help others attain maturity in Christ?
4. How does Paul’s statement about the energy of Christ working through him impact the way we view and appropriate the grace of God?

The Takeaway

Knowing that Christ lives in you and that His power works through you, what bold actions will you take this week?

