

Colossians 1:24-2:5 'Proclaim the mystery – Christ in you the hope of Glory' 4.02.18
(NIV Pew Bible Pg 1182/83)

Context

- 1] Paul to a young church, never visited, amidst great religious confusion,
- 2] He focuses on
 - 1) The person of Jesus – God, Creator, Sustainer, Leader (1:15-18)
 - 2) The work of Jesus – reconciliation between God and man (1:19-23)
??? Why the stress on 'mystery'? (1:26, 27; 2:2)
The mystery is key - the revealed fellowship the Spirit of Jesus

Paul's attitude (1:24)

- 1] Rejoice in His sufferings for them
*Nb messianic woes - present (evil) age (Gal 1:3) birth pangs of new age. (Rom 8:22).
Meantime, share in his sufferings (Jn 15:20, 21; Phil 3:10)*
Nb Paul's sufferings (2 Cor 11:23-28)
Rejoice in our sufferings (Romans 5:3)... in the Lord always (Phil 4:4)
suffering for people to whom he writes (2 Cor 1:16; Eph 3:13; cf 2 Tim 2:10)
suffering with Christ (Rmns 8:17; Phil 3:10)
warning of suffering (Acts 9:16)

- 2] Fill up His flesh what is 'still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions'
JESUS in Jesus, God suffers

- 3] For His body, which is the church
Cf What you did for the least of my brothers, you did for me (Matt 25:40)
Rejoice in what you suffer for Christ on other's behalf
The church should expect to share in Christ's afflictions

His mission (1:25-27)

- 1] commission by G (25a)
God sends His people to do His Work
Expect God's call
- 2] to present the fullness of the Word of God (25b)
God gives His Word in all its fullness through the message of Jesus
Look at Christ in all the Scriptures as God's Word in all its fullness
- 3] (which is) the mystery
 - a) hidden in the past (26a)
 - b) disclosed to the saints (26b)
 - c) the chosen included the gentile (27a)
cf gentiles including Ephesians 3:2-6.
GRACE God chooses to make Himself known
 - d) the glorious riches – (lit - riches of the glory) (27b)
riches of His Glory (Eph 3:16) Rejoice in the hope of glory (Rmns 5:2)
 - e) = **Christ in (among) you, the hope of glory (27c)**

nb Jewish Messiah- 'Christ' 24,27,28; 2:2,5 cf 1:1,2,3,4.....2:6,8,9,10,11

'Christ in (gk 'en') you' cf 'God dwelt among us' (gk en) (Jn 1:14)

God dwells among us / within us

His action (1:28-2:1)

1] Proclaim, admonish, teach with all wisdom (28a)

Proclaim Jesus with the intent of presenting people complete / perfect in Christ

2] Present everyone perfect (mature??) in Christ (28b)

Nb Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48)

3] a struggle

a) in God's power (29)

Work to make Jesus known by His power

b) for all of them (2:1)

cf 'struggling' cf in prayer' (1:9)

Struggle for those Christians who you have not met

Aim to make the mystery of Jesus known

His purpose (2:2-5)

1] Encouraged in heart (2a)

2] United in love (2b)

Cf Eph 4:2ff)

3] Understanding of the mystery of God (2c-3)

a) Christ (2c)

b) all treasures of wisdom and knowledge (3)

cf Mystery (1:26, 27; 2:2) – spoke to Greeks (cf 1 Cor 1:22b)?

Wisdom and Knowledge (2 Chron 1:10-12; Rmns 11:23)

Greeks seek wisdom --- Jesus the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:22, 24)

He (the Holy Spirit) will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13)

God exists above all human wisdom and knowledge

4] Secure (4, 5)

a) not deceived by fine arguments (4)

cf Gen 3:1ff; Rmns 16:18)

Orderly – not tossed about cf (Eph 4:14)

Don't waste time in 'fine sounding arguments'

b) aware of Paul's presence in spirit (5)

cf Absent in body, present in Spirit (1 Cor 5:3-5; 1 Thess 2:17)

Put your faith IN Christ

Main Point - For all men our faith is that the King of the Jews is the way to Heaven

Key verse - Christ in (among) you the Hope of Glory' (27b)