

FILLING UP CHRIST'S AFFLICTIONS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—January 16th, 2022—Central Baptist Church

Colossians 1:24–2:5

ESV

[24] Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, [25] of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, [26] the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. [27] To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. [28] Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. [29] For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

[1] For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, [2] that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. [4] I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. [5] For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

MAIN POINT: Christian ministry is not easy, but it's worth it.

1) SUFFERING (1:24-27)

- **Colossians 2:13**—And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses...
- **Titus 2:14** [Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness

Salvation was promised from eternity past by the Father, accomplished by the Son on the cross, and it's being applied to the believers today through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit.

Mystery = A truth once concealed that is now revealed.

- **Genesis 12:3** God tells Abram, "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- **Galatians 3:29**—And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

2 Timothy 3:12—Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

2) PROCLAMATION (1:28-29)

- Christian preaching is Christ-centered.
- Christian preaching is a balanced.
- Christian preaching is goal oriented.

"God demands of us more than we can give, but he supplies us with more than we need."

Colossians 3:13—...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

3) ENCOURAGEMENT (2:1-3)

Struggle = *agonizomi*

Encouragement is necessary for the Christian walk.

This encouragement comes in two parts:

1) UNITY

A church that works together for Christ remains together in Christ.

2) ASSURANCE

"For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ." —Robert M'Cheyne

4) PROTECTION (2:4-5)

The job of a minister is to comfort the sheep with his voice, and with the same voice confront the wolf!

Christian ministry is not easy, but Christian ministry is worth it because the gospel is worth it!