

***“There Is A Cause!”***  
***Colossians 2:24-27***

**Introduction:**

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles:
  - To Paul’s Letter To The Colossians:
    - Colossians Chapter 1 - Where Paul Has Been Reminding:
      - The Young & Small Church In That City:
        - As Well As Ours Own:
          - About The Peace & Reconciliation That Comes Through God’s Own “Dear Son”
          - Our Lord Jesus Christ!
  - He Tells Us This:
    - So That - More & More:
      - As We Think About All That Jesus Has Done For Us:
        - As We Read Back In 1:18 - “That In All Things He Might Have The Preeminence!”
        - In Our Hearts & Lives!
    - Does The Lord Jesus:
      - Have “First Place” In Your Life Today?
2. Well - At The End:
  - Of 1:23 - Paul Personally Illustrates:
    - What This Means - By Introducing Himself:
      - As A “Minister” - A “Servant” Of God:
        - And His “Gospel Of Hope!”
  - You See - If Jesus Christ:
    - Has The “Preeminence” In Your Life:
      - Then You Too - Like Paul - Will:
        - Keep Serving Christ!
          - And - This Morning - We Are Going To Explore - Just What It Takes To Be A Servant & Minister Of Christ!
  - Let’s Look Together At:
    - 1:24-27 - “Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church: / Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; / Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: / To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!”
3. Now - Serving Christ:
  - May Take Different Forms:
    - For Different Christians!
      - In 1 Corinthians 12 - Paul Describes The “Body Of Christ” With A Bit More Detail:
        - And Tells Us That Every Christian Has Been Given Different Gifts & Abilities In Order To Serve Christ & His Church!
          - But - Just Because Those Gifts May Be Different Doesn’t Make Them Any More Or Less Important!
  - So - No Matter What Your Gift - As A Christian:
    - Keep Serving Christ! Even Though:
      - As Paul Then Explains To Us - That:
1. ***There Is A Cost To Serving Christ!***
  - And We Read About That Cost:
    - Back In 1:24 - “Who – Paul Is Referring To Himself – Having Been “Made A Minister” – Now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church!”
      - Here - Paul Reminds Us That:
        - When You Serve The Lord:
          - It May Still Involve “Suffering” And “Afflictions!”
          - There May Still Be A Cross That You Have To Bear As You Follow Christ! You May Still Have To Experience:

- Great Suffering:
  - As Paul Did - And Which He Describes:
    - In More Detail In Other Places:
      - Like 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 - "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. / Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. / Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; / In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; / In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. / Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches!"
  - When You Serve Christ:
    - You May Also Have To Go Through These Kinds Of:
      - Persecutions & Perils & Pressures!
        - There's A Cost! But Even More - You May Have To Experience:
- Great Sacrifice!
  - As Paul Did - When Back In Colossians 1:24 He Continues:
    - "And fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh!"
      - This Means That The Suffering Paul Went Through:
        - Was Part Of The Suffering & Sacrifice That Jesus Himself Went Through!
  - Now - It Is True:
    - That For Our Redemption:
      - The "Afflictions Of Christ" Were Completed On The Cross:
        - Because God The Father Was Completely Satisfied With His Sacrifice For Our Sins!
    - But - Even Though:
      - "The Personal Sufferings Of Jesus Are Over . . . His Sufferings In His People Still Continue!"
  - And So - When You Serve Christ:
    - You May Still Be Called Upon:
      - To Participate In Christ's Ongoing Suffering In This World!
        - But Even If You Do, You Can Take Comfort, Because They Are Not Your Own Afflictions - Even Though They May Feel Like It Sometimes!
          - They Are "The Afflictions Of Christ!"
  - And Because Your Afflictions:
    - Are Really His Afflictions:
      - You Can Still Sing Through Those Trials: "O yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, The long night dreary, I know my Savior cares!"
  - And You Can Then:
    - Keep Serving Christ With:
- Great Surrender!
  - As Paul Did - When He Began 1:24 With These Words:
    - "Who Now Rejoice!"
  - Paul's Service For The Lord - Was A Delight!
    - Because He Knew That:
      - "As the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ!" (2 Corinthians 1:5)
        - He Could Also Rejoice Because He Knew That All That He Would Go Through Was:
          - "For Them!"
    - He Knew That The More He Served:
      - And The More He Suffered:
        - And The More He Sacrificed:
          - The More It Would Benefit The People Of God!
            - It Would Encourage Them & Equip Them For Their Own Service For

The Lord!

- And So It Is For Your Service As A Christian!
  - Yes - At Times It May Involve:
    - Great Suffering & Great Sacrifice:
      - But You Can Surrender Yourself **To** It All & Even “Rejoice” **Through** It All:
        - Because It’s Really Not A Price **After** All! It Is A **Privilege** To Serve The Lord In This Way!
  - Remember The Disciples Back In Acts:
    - After Been Beaten & Commanded To:
      - Stop Speaking In The Name Of Jesus:
        - Acts 5:41 - “And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name!”
  - So - There May Be A Cost To Serving Christ!
    - But - Remember - There Is No Cost As Great:
      - As Christ’s Cost!
        - Remember His Great Suffering & Sacrifice - So That You Could Become A Part Of His Spiritual Body!
          - Remember That You Were Redeemed - “With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!”
  - And Now - It Is A Great Privilege:
    - Whenever Your Service For The Lord:
      - Costs **You** Something!
        - Keep Serving Christ!
          - No Matter What!

\* Because We Can Also See That:

2. ***There Is A Commitment In Serving Christ!***

- And We Read About That Commitment:
  - In 1:25-26 - “Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; / Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints!”
    - Here - Paul Reminds Us That:
      - When You Serve The Lord:
        - It Sill Involves Great Commitment And Faithfulness!
    - It Involves Commitment To:
- The Church Of Christ!
  - When Paul Writes In 1:25 - “Whereof I Am Made A Minister” - He Is Referring To The End Of 1:24:
    - And The Spiritual Body Of Christ:
      - “Which Is The Church!”
        - You See - To Serve Christ Means Serving The Church!
          - You Cannot Serve The One Without Serving The Other!
- We Need To Constantly Be Re-Committing Ourselves:
  - To God’s People:
    - To Christ’s Body:
      - The Church!
- Do You Love God’s People?
  - Are You Serving God’s People?
    - Would You Suffer For God’s People?
      - If Jesus Gave Himself For His People - So Should We!
  - This Should Not Only Be True:
    - Of The Universal Church:
      - And Of Other Christians **Out There!**
    - But It Should Be Especially True:
      - Of Our Local Church:
        - And Of The Christians **Right Here!**
- Are You Committed:
  - To The Church Of Christ?
    - This Is What It Takes:

- To Serve The Lord!
- It Also Takes Commitment To:
- The Call Of Christ!
  - Paul Continues In 1:25 - And Tells Us How He Became God's Servant For His Church:
    - It Was - "According To The Dispensation / Stewardship Of God Which Is Given To Me For You!"
    - This Means That God - As Creator & Controller Of The Universe - Has A Plan In Place For All Things!
    - And By His Grace - He Invited & Called Paul To Join Him In That Plan!
  - Tonight - We Are Going To Look At:
    - The Miraculous Call & Conversion Of Paul:
      - On The Road To Damascus From Acts 9!
      - But - You Must Never Forget That Your Own Call & Your Own Conversion By The Lord:
        - Is Just As Miraculous!
  - You May Not Have Been Confronted With:
    - A Light Brighter Than The Noon-Day Sun:
      - Before Your Eyes - But - If You Are Trusting In Jesus Christ As Your Savior From Sin:
        - The "Day Star" Has "Arise" Already In "Your Heart!" (2 Peter 1:19)
  - And God Has Personally Invited You:
    - Into His Own Plan & Administration Of This World!
      - And Now - **You Can Serve Him!**
        - Won't You Be Committed To Your Own Call?
    - 1 Peter 4:10 - "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God!"
      - But - We Must Also Be Committed To:
- The Communication Of God!
  - As Paul Was - 1:25 - "To Fulfill The Word Of God!"
    - That Is - To Fulfill God's Own Intention:
      - For His Word - Which Was To Spread It Out Into All The World!
  - The Gospel Of Christ:
    - Was Not Just Meant For:
      - The Jewish Nation:
        - But For All Nations!
          - And This Was Good News For That Predominantly Gentile Congregation In Colosse!
      - And Paul's Mission Was To:
        - "Carry Out The Design" Of The Gospel:
          - By Taking It To The "Uttermost Part Of The Earth!" (Acts 1:8)
    - After All - This Was - What Paul Describes In:
      - 1:26 - "Even the mystery which hath been hid from \_\_\_\_\_ ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints!"
        - A "Mystery" In The New Testament Is A Truth That Was Partially Concealed In The Old Testament, But Is Now Fully Revealed In The New!
          - And The "Mystery" Paul Is Referring To Here Is The Inclusion Of The Gentile World Into The Call Of The Gospel!
        - There Were Glimpses Of This Truth In The Old Testament - As The Lord Told Abraham:
          - Genesis 22:18 - "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed!"
    - But Now - Through The Light Of The Jesus Christ:
      - God Has Opened Up Our Own Eyes:
        - Our Own Minds, And Our Own Hearts:
          - To Believe In & Understand The Full **Intent** & The Full **Extent** Of The Gospel!
  - And Now - We Need To Keep Serving Christ!
    - And Be Committed To:
      - **His Word! His Plan! And His Church!**
        - Now - You Might Think - That Is Quite A Commitment!
    - But - Remember - There Is No Commitment As Great:
      - As Christ's Commitment!

- To His Own Word, His Own Plan, And His Own Body!
- And To You!
- Ephesians 5:25-26 - “Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; / That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word!” (For You!)
- So - **Keep Serving Christ!**

\* Because - As We See In 1:27:

3. **There Is A Cause For Serving Christ!**

- 1:27 - “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory!”
- Here - Paul Describes Even More Of That Old Mystery:
  - That You And I - As Christians:
    - Can Now Understand Through The Gospel!
    - And That Is - The “Riches Of The Glory” Of The Gospel For Everyone! For You & For Me!
  - **IE:** The Gospel Is A Great Treasure - That Hold’s Enough Riches For Everyone Who Believes - No Need To Hoard Or Hide What You Have Been Given - There Is An Infinite Supply Of God’s Goodness & Grace To Go Around!
    - And This Is Why:
      - There Is No Cost & No Commitment:
        - Too Great For A Cause Like This! For A Treasure Like This!
  - And What Is Your Treasure Now? What Is Your Cause?
    - “Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!”
      - We Can See From This Just What Our Gospel Treasure Consists Of!
        - Not Gold / Not Silver / Not Precious Stones / But Even Better:
- The Treasure Of Christ’s Glorious Person!
  - To You!
    - Your Greatest Treasure Is:
      - Jesus Christ Himself!
  - Later In 2:3 - Paul Says This About Christ:
    - “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge!”
      - And In 1 Corinthians 1:30 - Paul Writes - “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption!”
  - All That You Are - As A Christian:
    - All That You Have:
      - And All That You Need:
        - You Will Find In The Person Of Your Own Savior, Jesus Christ!
  - And He Is The Cause & Reason:
    - For Your Service!
      - Your Greatest Treasure Is:
        - “Christ!” - But It Is Also:
- The Treasure Of Christ’s Glorious Presence!
  - In You!
    - “Christ In You!”
  - It Does Not Say That:
    - Christ Will Just Be:
      - Before You – Though He Is - Or That:
    - Christ Will Just Be
      - Near You – Though He Is - Or That:
    - Christ Will Just Be:
      - With You – Though He Is - But That:
    - Christ Is:
      - “In You!”
    - This Is What Was Needed & This Is What Was Intended:
      - In The Gospel!
        - Once It Was Concealed! Now It Is Revealed “To His Saints!”
  - Your Treasure As A Christian Is:
    - “Christ In You!”

- And This Is The Cause & Reason:
  - For Your Service! But Even More, It Is:
- The Treasure Of Christ's Glorious Promise!
  - For You - Because "Christ In You" Is:
    - The "Hope Of Glory!" - **Your** "Hope Of Glory!"
    - He is The Very Evidence & Earnest:
      - Of The Glory You Will One Day Experience & Forever Enjoy!
  - This Is Why Paul Could Write:
    - In 1 Corinthians 4:17 - "But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. / For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!"
- And Now - You Can Keep Serving Christ!
  - Because There Is No Cause As Great:
    - As Christ's Cause!
      - That There Is An Infinite Supply Of God's Grace In The Treasure Of The Gospel!
      - And So - Whosoever Believes In Jesus Christ Will Receive:
      - 1:27 - "The Riches Of The Glory Of This Mystery – Which Is Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!"
    - And Because Of This Treasure:
      - Any Service You Offer:
      - Any Suffering You Endure:
      - And Any Sacrifice You Make:
        - Is Worth It!

### **Conclusion:**

1. Remember When Young David:
    - Went Out To Meet His Brothers:
      - In The Field Of Battle Against The Philistines:
        - In The Book Of 1 Samuel?
        - All Of Those Men Of War:
          - Were Timid & Afraid Of The Great Champion, Goliath!
      - But - After Hearing With His Own Ears:
        - Goliath's Reproach Of God's People:
          - As Well As His Defiance Of God Himself:
          - He Asked His Brothers This Question:
            - "Is There Not A Cause?"
  2. There Was A Cause:
    - For Them To Serve The Lord:
      - And To Fight For The Lord:
        - For His Name & For His People!
    - And Paul Wants You To Remember:
      - This Same Truth This Morning!
      - There Still Is A Cause:
        - For You To Serve The Lord!
    - In Fact:
      - There Is *No* Greater Cause:
        - Than The Cause Of Christ:
          - "Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!"
- So - **Keep Serving Christ!**

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