



## Life Church Smyrna

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 | 7pm

Pastor Christian Salzillo

### Part 3: Colossians 1:24-29

**Colossians 1:24-29 ESV** <sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. <sup>25</sup> Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, <sup>26</sup> that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, <sup>27</sup> to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

#### I. Paul's Theology of **Suffering**

Scripture has a theology of suffering, a **purpose** for it, and it can provide us the help and **hope** we need to endure the trials we see and experience.

- Suffering reminds us of what Christ **suffered** for us

What do we make of Paul's statement, "lacking in Christ's afflictions?" Was Christ's sacrifice not enough? Do we need to add something to it?

It represents the afflictions Paul has endured on behalf of and because of Christ, and they're lacking because Paul still hasn't **attained** to the level of suffering that Jesus **endured**.

**I am going to live my life in an attempt to attain to that level of suffering so that I can consider myself worthy of what Christ did for me.**

## Message Notes | Colossians | Part Three

**Philippians 1:29 NASB** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

**Philippians 3:10-11 NIV** <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- Suffering reveals **power** for living and **hope** for enduring

"We hope to suffer torment for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so be saved. For this will bring us salvation and confidence as we stand before...our Lord and Savior." -Justin Martyr, A.D. 165

#### Christ in you, the hope of glory!

This truth separates every other religion, every other spiritual experience, every other philosophy – our God lives, with his fullness, power, and presence – inside each Christian.

**The present reality: Christ's power in us!**

**The future reality: God's glorious reward!**

- Suffering matures us in Christ

Paul's theology of suffering is that if you're experiencing it, for Christ, then you're doing the right thing. It should be expected that there would be suffering on the path of becoming more Christ-like.

**James 1:2-4 NASB** <sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

*"Jesus, the Messiah, had suffered on the cross; now his people, the members of his body, had their quota of affliction to bear, and Paul was eager to absorb as much as possible of this in his own "flesh." The suffering of affliction now was, for the followers of Christ, the prelude to glory at his advent..." (from the NICNT)*

## Loving God! Loving People! Loving Life!