

Deep Roots Enable You to THRIVE not Just Survive

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Colossians 1:24-2:7

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.

2 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.

1. Jesus + NOTHING = Everything

- a. Jesus is SUPREME and He is SUFFICIENT
- b. He was fully Man and fully God at the same time
- c. When Jesus becomes more than just a part of our life but our VERY LIFE, our reason and purpose for living then we begin to THRIVE and not just struggle to SURVIVE
- d. We need to understand who Jesus is, how He relates to us, how we should relate to Him and then how we should relate to one another

2. Centering your life on Jesus will change everything about you and give you incredible joy and purpose even in the midst of great suffering

- a. "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,

danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches." - 2 Corinthians 11:24-29

- b. Why would Paul rejoice for suffering for a people he didn't even know?
- c. "the mystery hidden for ages and generations"

3. A disciple is a person who LIVES, LOVES, and LEADS like Jesus

- a. "the Fruit of the Spirit" within you; "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." - Galatians 5:22-23
- b. Christ in us, the hope of glory
- c. Often times the enemy will distort God's truth such as:
 - i. Who God is?
 - ii. What does He require of us?
 - iii. What does He do for us?
 - iv. How does He want us to live?
 - v. He distorts our views of:
 - 1. Life
 - 2. Sexuality
 - 3. Marriage
 - 4. How we treat others

4. Paul's desire is for everyone to become MATURE in Christ

- a. Our tendency can be to try HARDER to be BETTER
- b. The reliance on Christ in us, the hope of glory leads to:
 - i. *"Our hearts may be encouraged,"*

- ii. *"We would be knit together in love,"*
- iii. *"We would reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."*

5. THRIVE not survive

- a. "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." - Colossians 2:6-7
 - i. 1st step: RECEIVE Jesus as your Lord
 - ii. 2nd step: WALK in Him.
 - iii. 3rd step: Allow your roots to grow deep in Him and His truth
 - iv. 4th step: Let THANKSGIVING abound in your life.