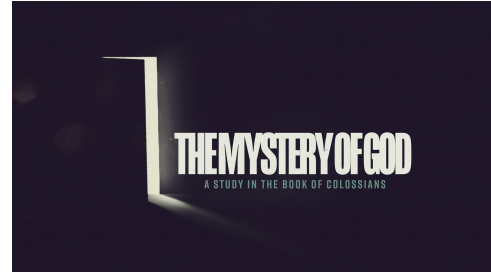


LG Questions

Spring 24 Wk 1



Big Idea: God wants us to know the mystery of Christ and show the mystery of Christ.

Read Colossians I: 24-2:5

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

2 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

- 1. Paul suffered to “complete what was lacking in Christ's afflictions” for his body. In other words, Paul suffered so that the church of Colossae would grow in Spiritual maturity and so that they would be encouraged when they faced suffering themselves. What would you be willing to suffer if it meant the spiritual health of your family? Your community? Do you believe that all of us are called to participate in Christ's sufferings? Why or why not?**
- 2. Paul says “Christ in us” is the hope of glory. Where is your hope meter currently residing on a scale of 1 to 10? Would you say that your hopes land more on the side of temporary or eternal things? Explain.**
- 3. Paul was writing to people he had never met face-to-face, and yet his goal was to present them “mature in Christ.” How would our lives change if reaching those we don't even know were our chief goal in life?**

4. ***Paul is struggling for those in Laodicea, but it says “with all of Christ’s energy”. When in your life have you struggled for others, but found Christ’s energy and strength present as you did?***

5. ***Paul says in verse 2 that his goal is that the church of Colossae would be encouraged and united (or knit) together in love. What images do you have when you hear the words “knit together in love”? How do we open our lives to the tapestry Christ is designing in his church?***

Prayer Time: *Spend some time praying for one person whom you will “contend” for in life so that they will come to discover the mystery of God for themselves.*