

21 November 2021

Colossians 1:24-29 – How Does Faithful Discipleship Change Everything?

Present: It brings meaning to present spiritual suffering

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...

Question 1: Can you think of a past experience of suffering which had spiritual significance?

Question 2: Is there a present experience of suffering, in which you need God's help?

Past: It reveals spiritual truth previous hidden

²⁵ ... 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.

Question 3: In what way was the truth of Christ hidden from you in the past?

Question 4: How are we as individuals to play our part in revealing Christ to the world?

Question 5: What difficulties will we encounter, and how do we overcome them?

Future: It prepares us for future judgement

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.

Question 6: What feelings do you have about the future judgement of God?

Question 7: How does faithful discipleship prepare us for that day?

A Prayer

Loving Lord, thank you for these words of encouragement and challenge. Help us recognise that faithful discipleship is within reach, and we should not be distracted by anything. May your Holy Spirit visit us now in power, and bring meaning to present suffering, reveal spiritual truths previously hidden and prepare us to be presented fully mature through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.