



DISCUSSION GUIDE JANUARY 29, 2023

Dive In

Go around and let everyone answer...

What is the one material possession that you have held on to for the longest amount of time throughout your life and why?

Dig Deep

Read Scripture: Colossians 1: 23-29

²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. ²⁴Now 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. ²⁵I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷To 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.

²⁸He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."

- What is the **hope** Paul says to hold on to in v. 23?
- How has the gospel been proclaimed to **every creature under heaven**?
- In v. 24, what was **still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions**? What is the significance of Paul's physical suffering?
- What is the **mystery** Paul mentions in v. 26 (1 Peter 1:10-12)? What are its glorious riches (v. 27)?
- What does it mean in v. 28 to be **fully mature** in Christ? How did this goal motivate Paul as he endured suffering and prison?

Do Big

- In what way do you think making disciples will require you to suffer? Describe what you think your suffering might look like. How can you get as excited as Paul was to make disciples knowing it probably will make you suffer?
- Many people call themselves Christians, but using the criteria Paul is preaching, they seem lukewarm and indifferent. If they continue to be lukewarm, what will happen to them when Jesus returns?



LEADERS

Read Colossians 1-4

Background:

The word for mystery in verses 26 & 27 is only used in the same sense once in the Old Testament. It's in Daniel 2 about the story of Daniel being able to tell King Nebuchadnezzar his dream and its meanings because Daniel had a mature faith in God. Daniel calls God "the revealer of mysteries." Both Old Testament & New Testament mysteries reveal what God will do in end times.

Key Thoughts

You have Christ in you, the hope of glory. Paul was energized by Christ working in him as he preached to Gentiles. We can follow Paul's instructions and imitate him in order to grow spiritually mature.

Challenge

Spend some time journaling about verse 25 and Paul's commission to preach and serve God's kingdom. To what has God commissioned you?

Weekly Memory Verse

¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God."

1 John 4:15