

30 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Colossians – week 4



Let's hear your story

1. Share a story of how you experienced suffering for the name of Jesus?
2. What does Paul say about his suffering in verse 24? (**I rejoice in my suffering...**).
3. Is Paul's identity in his suffering or in his Saviour according to v.25? (**In his Saviour, he says I became a minister...**)
4. What is the mystery in v.27? (**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**).



Let's go deeper

5. What is the goal of ministry according to Paul in v.28? (**To present everyone mature in Christ...**).
6. What three things are needed for maturity according to Paul in Col.2:1 – 5? (**Teaching; relationships and discernment.**).
7. How does Paul highlight the importance of relationships for maturity in v.2? (**That hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love.**).
8. How does Paul highlight the importance of discernment for maturity in v.4? (**That no one may delude you with plausible arguments.**).



Let's apply this

9. Three areas that will help you mature:

1. Teaching:

How is your learning about Jesus? Are you reading your bible? What books are you reading? What are you learning?

2. Relationships:

Who are praying and learning with? Who are the people you are inviting into your life so you can be knit together in love?

3. Discernment:

There are false teachers, false doctrines, bad instruction, and what you need is discernment to know that this is God's truth, and this is error.

SUMMARY:

- Colossians: Week 4

Read: Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

v.24; Paul is suffering and he's in prison (house arrest) for serving Jesus. But he is honest about his suffering and he is sharing it with others. And through his own example, he is instructing them in this important principle. That your suffering does not define you. How you respond to your suffering defines you.

v.25 – 27; When you're suffering and hurting, it is very easy to allow that to become your identity. So, what that allows is, as a worshiper, my identity is not in my suffering. My identity is in my Saviour. The other thing that Paul is doing here is very, helpful. When we are suffering, we become very short-sighted. Because we're hurting. And as a result, we can lose a long view of things. So, what he talks about here is the hope of glory. Paul is bringing us all back to Jesus as the centre.

v.28 – 29; When you are suffering, you must share what you are learning. As a born-again believer, you are in full time ministry. And ministry is a lifestyle, it is not a job. The person, presence and power of Holy Spirit empower you to do ministry and to serve others.

Paul points out here that your greatest ministry comes from your deepest pain. Paul has experienced much pain and out of that, he has great ministry. Jesus had much pain and out of that came great ministry. Here's what this means. The worst part of your life is the best place for your ministry. This is where the Bible says, we can comfort others with the comfort we've received.

Paul reminds us that the goal of ministry is maturity, to present everyone mature in Christ. Maturity is a lifelong process, we are always learning and growing.

Colossians 2:1 – 5; Start with Jesus, stay with Jesus and end with Jesus. Paul says everything you need to know is ultimately about the person and work of Jesus. For you to mature you need three things; **teaching, relationships and discernment.**

Teaching; Jesus centred instruction is absolutely essential for maturing.

Relationships; Who are you praying with? Who are you learning with? Who are the people that you invite into your life that are safe and godly into relationship and community so you can be knit together in love?

Discernment; Paul says there are delusional, plausible arguments. That means there is healthy food, and there's unhealthy food. There's not only nutritious instruction, there's poisonous instruction. There are false teachers, false doctrines, bad instruction and you need discernment to know that is not God's truth it is error.