



## PART 3: A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Colossians | 8.31.25

Libin Abraham

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Paul Colossians, chapter one, verse 24 reads like this, where Paul says, Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh. What is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body that is the church. I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you to make the Word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations, but now revealed to His saints. God wanted to make known among the Gentiles, the glorious wealth of this mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this striving with his strength that works powerfully in me, striving with whose strength, his strength working powerfully where, in me, in you, His strength is at work in us. Let's pray, Father, we thank you so much for the power of Christ working in us, but even more for the presence of Christ in us right now, a mystery hidden for all generations, all ages, have been revealed Christ in us, the hope of glory, that's all we've gathered today, because we have hope and we have hue. That's why we sing with such joy and passion, because the storms, the chaos, the issues, the brokenness of this world does not have its final word. You do. There's always hope, because there's always Christ in the midst of crisis and chaos and pain. So as we open up this text, God, would you speak to us? Would you open up any mystery you want us to see clearly today? Minister to us Holy Spirit. We need you. And for those who feel like they're about to fall or not able to make it, may you remind them that you are strong enough for them. They're hidden in Christ, and they will live to testify of the goodness of God in the land of the living God. For our students, we just pray as a retreat right now. Would you minister in that room as they were worshiping together? Would you spark incredible conversation, give them revelation of your love, your grace and your power at work in them. We thank you for what you're doing across our church. For somebody new today, maybe this is their first time, just slipping into a service, guy, you are ministering to them. You're meeting them right where they are. You have a plan and you have a purpose. It is not accident, it is not coincidence. It is God's design for you to be here, friend. God wants to say something to you. So today, our hearts are open, our minds are attuned to your voice. Speak Holy Spirit. Show us Jesus. All this in the name of Jesus, we pray and the church said together aloud, amen, amen, come on, let's give Jesus a Thanksgiving of praise today. Amen, amen, you're going to have a seat today. Thank you so much for worshiping with us on this Labor Day weekend. We love seeing you. We're thankful to gather with you this morning. If you're new today, I want to welcome you. Thank you for worshiping with us online and in this room. My name is living Abraham, and I'm so thankful that you have joined us. We are in the series and going to the book of Colossians. I have enjoyed hearing from many of you, how you are writing down a couple of verses a day, but you're finding out Paul loves run on sentences. You're like, I don't know where to stop. Like, just trying to stop, but there's just, and this is one of those long verses we're looking at today as well. I think a core question that all of us at some point in our life, we keep coming back to, is simply this, what is it that makes life meaningful? What makes life meaningful? Is it success? Is it our career milestones? Is it financial security? Is it influence? Is it relationships? Is it having a loving family? All of those things are really good and beautiful, and yet we have met so many people who have had that and more come to the admission in their life that their life was empty. It wasn't meaningful, it wasn't fulfilling, it still felt empty. So then what is it that makes life meaningful even worth living. The great Comedian Jim Carrey or the great theologian Jim Carrey said, at the height of his Hollywood success, I wish everyone would get rich and famous and do everything they've ever dreamed of so they would realize it's. Not the answer. So they realized it's not the answer. Maybe you have worked so tirelessly at getting to a great achievement, and you finally get there, and it was a letdown. It wasn't as meaningful as you thought it would be. That kind of happened for me when I was doing my PhD work, and I was like, Man, if I could just get through this four and a half years of getting this, what they call a terminal degree, I'd be so much smarter. I'd be so much better in ministry. I'd feel confident and competent while I walked across that stage and grabbed my diploma, and I didn't feel any of

those things, maybe a little less of all of those things. It was the most anti climactic moment for me, maybe for you, that moment was pretty dramatic, like it was for Alexander the Great who conquered all of the known world by the age of 30. By the way, what have you done with your life? All right, conquer the known world by the age of 30. And then he cried, and he wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. He felt empty. What's worth living for now, Blaise Pascal was right when he said, there is a God shaped vacuum in the human hearts that nothing in this world can or will satisfy except God. It's a reality. Today in our text, we find a personal statement from the Apostle Paul. Paul is in prison. He's away from so many of the things you enjoy today, friends, family, freedom, food. He's in prison. And yet you do not find here a man who is empty. You don't find here a man who is worn out or angry or frustrated or discouraged or disappointed. Rather, who you find is a man driven by purpose. You find a man rejoicing. You find a man experiencing power in his life. So you got to wonder, what is it Paul that makes for a meaningful life. How do you rejoice even in prison? How do you find purpose to contend and to keep living for well, this passage of Scripture gives us a window into what is it truly that makes for an eternally meaningful life from this quest for meaningfulness in our life. Paul's words give us at least five windows, five clues into what gives us the meaningful life we long for. And the first thing Paul would say to us, what makes life meaningful is an indwelt life. An indwelt life, indwelling or indwelt simply means that something or someone is permanently present in you, something present inside of you. And for Paul, the secret to his life was not that he was full of himself. The secret to his life, this meaningful, impactful life, was that he was full of who Christ. He was full of Christ. This is what he says in verse 27 of Colossians, one God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery which is Christ. Where in you, Christ, inside of you, the hope of glory. Paul describes this reality Christ in you right now as a mystery that was hidden for all ages and all generations. People did not know that this is going to be a reality, though Old Testament gave us some clues and shadows we saw in the tent and in the tabernacle, in the in the temple, that God longed to dwell with His people. We saw through messianic promises and prophecies that a virgin was going to give birth to a son, and we ought to call him Emmanuel, God with us. And yet those are just clues. We couldn't even get our mind around this reality that Christ would be in us, this mystery began to reveal itself as Jesus walked on the earth and we realized Whoa, God was in descending someone. He was sending himself, the child to be born. Is God himself? That the Son of God would become Son of Man. That God was what a walk in our shoes. And in Jesus, it was really revealed that the Messiah wasn't just going to be for the Jews. He was going to be a light to all the nations, the whole world, was going to be blessed by Him. In Jesus, it was relieved revealed that God was born on earth to die because he wasn't just going to conquer Rome. No, no. He came to do something far greater. He wanted to conquer our sin and death in all of his finality

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and in. His resurrection, it was revealed. He was born to die, but he was buried to rise again, and in his resurrection, we have eternal life with Him. What an unfolding of mystery. But here's the truth, even as Jesus walked on the earth, he was with us. He was not in us. That didn't happen until Jesus ascended back to the Father, and then the church gathered for 10 days in a prayer meeting in the upper room, and boom, the Holy Spirit comes like tongues of fire. And then he came to dwell in us. And because of the presence of the Spirit in us, now we can truly say Christ is in us, the hope of glory. Christ is in you, not just with you, not just out there somewhere, but he is in you. Last week, we talked through the Christ hymn, Colossians, one verse, 15 to 20, where Paul says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, that all things in heaven and on earth, visible, invisible, that every throne, Dominion, ruler, authority, all of it, was made by Him, through Him and for Him that He is before all things and all things are held together in him. You can't get more grand and powerful and majestic than that. So just think about this. Now for Paul to say that Jesus, who made all things, is ruling and reigning over the universe, that Jesus, where is he? Now? In you? Let that settle in. That's big news. That changes everything that Christ is resident in your heart. Do you believe that? Do you feel that? Does that mean anything to you? Because the truth is, most of our lives, most of our days, we go thinking, Man, this is just an ordinary I'm just an ordinary person. This is a mundane life. I'm just trying to make it through the grind. I feel empty, I feel broken, I feel lacking, all of those things we're just trying to get through the day, not feeling like we have something of that nature living inside of us. But if this is true, it's nothing ordinary about who you are, because the God of the universe, the one that the heavens could not contain, chose you as his permanent residence. Isn't that amazing? He chose to live forever inside of you. So when you ask the question, Where is God? You don't really have to look up. You just have to look here, because today Christ is in you. And because he is in you, He is the hope of glory. This is the incredible mystery hidden for all ages, revealed in Christ through the Spirit Christ in you. Paul wrote it like this in Galatians, two verse 20, I have been crucified with Christ. No longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me in the life I now live. I live by faith in the Son of God who gave himself up for me. Christ now lives where in me, if you're a theologically minded person, you may be thinking, well, I know we're going to get to Colossians three. And Colossians three says Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. So is Christ there, or is he here? And the answer is,

what? Yes, it's both of those things, because he is inseparable from the Holy Spirit who is in you. In fact, Romans says it like this in chapter eight, verse nine, Paul says You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the spirit. If indeed, the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not live, does not have the Spirit of Christ, He does not belong to Him. Now, if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. Whoa, Paul, you're just using all kinds of phrases about who's in us. Is it the Spirit of God in us, or is it Christ in us? And he would say, yes, why? Because the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. If you have the spirit, you've got Christ. If you've got Christ, you've got the spirit. Those two are inseparable. Some people have used this illustration to explain this reality that it's like the sun that's in the sky, and yet the rays of the sun are felt and seen all over the Earth. So Christ is there with the Father, and we feel his presence in us. I think that analogy falls short, because we don't just have the rays of Christ's presence, his effects in us. We have, in this mysterious and mystical way, the Real Presence of Jesus in us. Christ truly is in us, and a life of meaning and purpose and fulfilling, a fulfillment begins by grabbing a hold of this reality. I'm not empty. Christ Himself is in me. And can I just tell you, the Christ in you is powerful, the Christ in you is creative. The Christ in you has all kinds of wild ideas. The Christ in you is supernatural. The Christ in you is loving. The Christ in you is patient. The Christ in you can put up with a little road rage. He can you can do it. He can do it. He's in you. He is shining through you. He's loving through you. He is loving your enemy through you. He is forgiving those who are mistreating through you. That is the power of Christ in you. Aren't you glad that you are not all by yourself, but Christ, through His Spirit, has made your heart his home. Oh, this mystery revealed Christ in you makes life meaningful. Second of all, a meaningful life is a transformed life, a transformed life. Notice what Paul says in verse 28 we proclaim Him, and we're going to come back to that in a minute. This is his life mission. We proclaim Him how warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ, Paul says, My life's aim is to proclaim Jesus, and I do it by warning and teaching warning, meaning, look, don't go this way. It is not good for you. It leads to a dead end. It leads to destruction. It leads to pain. Don't think this way about yourself. Don't think this way about your marriage. Don't think this way about your kids or your neighbor or the world. There is a better way to live. So we warn and we teach. We bring the full instruction of the wisdom of God about who you are, how you live, how you see the world, how you operate in your workplace, how you contend for the injustices of the world. We think the thoughts of Jesus, so we warn and we teach to do what to present everyone mature in Christ, to grow people up in Jesus. This is the transformation that happens in our walk with Him, in our life with Jesus. He grows us. He changes us. The things we used to think, we don't think anymore, the way we used to act, we don't act anymore, even the way we used to feel, we don't feel because we're maturing in Jesus, it's a transformed, or rather transforming life. Why? Because a Christ in us doesn't want to get tucked away to where no one notices him. This may be new to you, but he likes to show up on days other than Sunday. He actually wants to show up in your boardroom, show up at work, show up at your PTA meeting, show up in the car pool line. He wants to show up in your finances and your decisions and your relationships. He doesn't want to be peripheral, tucked away to a corner. He wants to be central maturity in Jesus, discipleship is Christ in us becoming pervasive in every part of our life. So the Christ in us actually unpacks his suitcases, like that uncle who said he was just swinging by, and then he brought some suitcases with him. He's like, why are you doing with suitcases? Why are you unpacking in my house? He's moving in, and he didn't tell you, not a visitor. And Jesus comes into your life, and he begins to unpack His grace. He begins to unpack his vision for you, his power in your life, his dream, His purpose is for you. And he settles in, and you mature as his life, as his presence fills every part of your life. And you're thinking, man, not that corner, not that closet, I hope you don't touch that. That place is too broken, that thing is too addicted, and isn't it? I want to get to that place. That's why I've come. I've come to bring healing to the broken. I've come to bring hope to the despair. I've come to bring life and life in its abundance. I'm moving in says, Jesus, this is a transformed life where his presence is pervasive. Pastor Ben Stewart said it like this, as we follow Jesus, it's not just about an altar call. It's about an altered life.

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It's about an altered life. It may begin at an altar call, you come and you. Yield your life to Jesus, and you receive forgiveness of sins, but it sets you on a trajectory to where everything about your life changes. Something fundamentally is different, because you begin to see the world as he sees it. Begin to see people as he sees people. You begin to see your future in light of him. You see your past in light of him. Now you see your present in light of him, and everything changes. It's not just an altar call. It's an altered life. A meaningful life is an indulged life by him. Meaningful life is a maturing life where his presence is pervasive. And third of all, a meaningful life is a missional life, a deeply missional life, if you live for yourself, with you as the goal of it, it's an empty life. But a meaningful life is always one with a great mission. And Paul said about his mission, we proclaim Christ. The original language is him. We proclaim with the emphasis on him. Everything we do is to proclaim Him. You may be thinking, well, that's Paul. He's an apostle to the Gentiles as a missionary, that's his mission. But can that not be my mission? It's all of our mission. Paul will say in Second Corinthians, five we, meaning you and I. We are ambassadors for

Christ, imploring the world to be reconciled to Him. We are messengers and ministers of reconciliation. We have a joint mission, which is to proclaim Christ. I know we all have different professions in this room, but we have one mission, to proclaim Christ. We all have different career plans and paths in this room, but we have one calling, which is to proclaim Christ. So whatever you do, at home, at work, at play, your job, your primary mission on the earth is to proclaim Him. Proclaim Him to your children. It's the best gift you could give to your kids. Proclaim Him joyfully, fervently, passionately, and you keep proclaiming Christ. Proclaim Him in the way you work. Proclaim Him in the way you are generous in how loving you are, how gracious you are, how you react to the world around you. Proclaim Jesus. Proclaim Him in the little things. Proclaim Him in the big moments. Proclaim Him when it's uncomfortable and it's costly, the aim of our life is simply we want to proclaim Jesus. If you want your life to be eternally meaningful, get on this mission to proclaim Jesus. I know you're thinking, well, that's going to make for some awkward conversations. I know it's going to make for some difficult interactions. Yeah, Paul knows, guess what? He's in prison for it. And Paul actually puts it like this, though, Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you. Paul paid a price for proclaiming Christ, beaten, flogged, shipwrecked, wrecked, left for dead in prison over and over again. The worst that can happen to us is someone dislikes us on Instagram or unfollows us, or doesn't invite us to their lunch table, leaves us out of a group chat. It's okay, you can handle it. We can pay the cross. Expect a price to proclaim, expect some awkwardness, inconveniences, even hostility. But Paul would say, look, I rejoice in my sufferings for you. I rejoice in my sufferings. Proclaiming Christ came with a cause, and yet Paul could say, I rejoice in my sufferings for you. Look. Paul didn't look for sufferings. He didn't rejoice in suffering for suffering sake. He wasn't hoping to get imprisoned every time he got to a new town. He enjoyed the comforts of life like you do. He enjoyed the people that God had blessed him with, and breaking bread with church communities, and enjoying freedom and living as he would want to. He enjoyed those things, but when those things were taken, he was able to rejoice. Why? Because I rejoice in my sufferings. For you, it's joyful sacrifice. What's joyful sacrifice? Joyful sacrifice is when you give up something you love you. For something you love even more, isn't it? It's when you give up something you love for something you love even more. Paul loved his freedom. He loved to sleep in his own bed. But what he loved more was the you. It might have been the Colossians here. It might have been the Ephesians in a different place, Paul was said. But for you, if I've got to give up my freedom, if I've got to give up my comforts and my convenience, and I rejoice because of what it's doing for you, it's joyful sacrifice. Our family moved to America for many years. My mom worked as a nurse, tech. She had four fits, four kids to feed and to send to school and all that. My dad was a pastor, and so we relied on her income a lot, and so she worked as a nurse tech, and she would tell me often about the nature of our job, and all of it sounded really hard. Most of it sounded really gross, things that I'd never want to do. It's physically intense. She was not a big, strong woman, but man. Things she had to do sounded pretty difficult, but she would get there early, and she would get stay late and pick up overtime shift, and because she knew that every minute she was clocked in, she was able to provide for her kids just a little bit more. She didn't love her job, but she loved what her job enabled her to do for us. She was determined to give her kids a life that she did not have. It's joyful sacrifice. So she would say, look, a lot of things about my job are hard, but I love you guys so much. It's worth it. I find joy in it because I know what it's doing for you, many of your moms and many of your dads have done the same thing for your kids or for your parents. You've endured hardship. You've endured suffering for someone else, thinking of that person in mind, thinking of that family, you've endured really difficult things. And this is what Paul is saying, I rejoice in my imprisonment, in my flogging, in my suffering. For you, it's worth it for you. Who's that? You for you? Do you have a you, that you're willing to be inconvenienced, willing to have an awkward conversation, to tell them about Jesus, even if it means suffering, because you know what it does for them, it's worth it. Paul goes on to describe his suffering, and he goes on in this verse and says, I rejoice in my suffering for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is the church. Isn't that a really odd statement. You can nod. It's okay to agree with me on that point. It's a staggering statement. It's a little blasphemous. What do you mean, Paul, you are completing or making up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the church? Are you saying that the afflictions of Jesus on the cross were not enough, that it wasn't complete for the church? Paul? Are you saying that Jesus paid almost all of it and that now you got to pitch in on the back end to complete what he couldn't pay? So what he's saying surely not Jesus' last words were, It is finished. The price of salvation was complete. So then, what does Paul mean when he's saying, in my suffering, I am making up, I'm completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the body? We'll come back to that in a couple of weeks. Okay, kidding. I want to do that to you. That would be fun, though.

Libin Abraham 29:09

What's he saying? I think what he says in Philippians chapter two helps us understand what he means by completing making up what is lacking. What's happening in Philippians chapter two is that Paul is in prison in Rome, and he's writing to the Philippians a thank you letter. And what the Philippians has done is, look, we see Paul who is in prison in Rome. How can we

just love on him? How can we bless him? So what they decided to do is they took a collection, they gathered a gift package for Paul, and so all the Philippine believers pitched in, and they gathered a gift to send to Paul. But the only problem is, they got the gift, but Paul's still hundreds of miles away in Philippi. You can't amazon it there. No one can just drop it off on the way somewhere else. So what did they do? Paul's hundreds of miles away in Rome. They're there in Philippi, they got the gift. Yes, but something's lacking. Delivery was lacking. Uber Eats was lacking. So a man by the name of Epaphroditus says, You know what? I'll step up. I'll deliver this gift to Paul. So the church gathered the gift, and Epaphroditus said, I'll take this to Paul. And he did. He traveled hundreds of miles on foot through really difficult conditions, in fact, coming close to death on the journey, but he persisted, he prevailed, and he took this gift from Philippi, and he delivered it to Paul. Paul sees this gift that this loving church gathered for him, and he sees Epaphroditus says, oh, man, I just gotta send a thank you note. So he writes Philippians, and in chapter two, he talks about how grateful he is for Epaphroditus delivering this gift. And notice what he says in verse 30, because he Epaphroditus came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me. Paul says, Look, you wanted to wish me well. You wanted to love on me. You gathered a gift, and you didn't have a way of getting there, getting it here, but Epaphroditus stepped in and he completed what was lacking in your ministry. What Paul is saying is, you gathered the gift, Epaphroditus delivered it to me. So back to Colossians. What do you mean, Paul, that in your suffering, you are making up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the church. Here's what Paul is saying, Christ purchased our salvation on the cross fully. Jesus offered his life brutally on the cross. He offered it painfully, beaten, flogged, humiliated, in front of the watching world, unrecognizable, and that was enough to purchase our salvation. Nothing about the merit of the cross is lacking. His work purchased our salvation. But what was lacking was the deliverer of the message of the cross. What was lacking was a delivery system who's going to take the finished work of the Cross and tell people about it, who's going to take the gospel Christ died, he rose, he ascended. He's coming back and bring it to people who have yet to hear and this is what Paul is saying. In my afflictions, in my suffering, I'm just making up the lack, which means I'm just a messenger. Martin Luther said it like this, it wouldn't matter if Jesus died 1000 times if no one ever heard about it? Would it matter if he died 1000 times if people didn't hear it? The good news isn't good news until it reaches the ear of a sinner to let them know there's hope for you. You can be made whole and forgiven in Jesus, that's when the good news is applied. So Paul is saying, Christ purchased our salvation, we proclaim His salvation. He atoned for our salvation, we announce his salvation. One person said it like this, Christ's cross was propitiation. Our cross is propagation. Christ suffered to accomplish salvation. We suffer to spread salvation. He purchased it. We proclaim it. That's how we make up what is lacking in the afflictions of Jesus. We go to tell people why he was afflicted, why he was crucified, why he had to die, we become the Epaphroditus who takes the finished, Perfect Gift of Jesus, and we deliver it to humanity, because it's not good news until it gets there. This is your missional call to go to your roommate and say, Hey, I don't know if someone's told you the whole story of Jesus, but can we go to lunch, and can I just tell you who he is and what he's done in my life? Maybe go to your family member, and you know it's gonna get awkward and say, I don't want to judge you, but so got to tell you the hope I found in Jesus, maybe a stranger to God, brings your way, and you just open your heart and say, Look, I know there's a lot of bad news in the world, but can I tell you the best news? So record Warren Rick. Warren, Pastor Rick. Want to call the apology sermon to your neighbor. Look, I know I've lived next to you for 30 years, but I have yet to tell you the best thing about me. And then you just walk away and get them so curious, you tell I'm sorry that I forgot to tell you about Jesus, who is the best thing about my wife, who is the you for you, the awkwardness is worth it, the inconvenience is worth it, because this is how the gospel has spread. Over the last 2000 years, people have carried in the wings of their relationships and family networks and working relationships, putting up with the cost joyfully laying down their life because they believed that it wasn't going to be good news unless it was shared and told and people needed to hear it, for them to receive it, we make up what's lacking in the afflictions of Christ by proclaiming what he purchased. Here's the good news for us, though, this missional life isn't fully dependent on us. The fourth part of this meaningful life is that we have an empowered life. Empowered life. You don't have to rely on your own energy and strength and creativity and brilliance to be missional. You have a source of power and strength beyond yourself. And this is what Paul says in verse 29 I labor for this that this is to proclaim Christ, to make Him known, to present people mature in Jesus. I labor for this striving with his strength that works powerfully in me, not striving with my strength, not striving with my abilities? No, no. I can only contend. I can only labor. I can only strive with his power, his strength, working powerfully in me. This is how Paul made it through prison. This is how he endured through persecution. This is how he preached the gospel in places that have never heard. This is how he stood up to the Roman Empire and brought Jesus by the power of Jesus working powerfully in him. This is the only way. The goal of your life isn't to be independent. The goal of your life is to be fully dependent on his power, to strive with his strength that works powerfully in you. So you don't have to be strong enough or educated enough or trained enough to be missional. You just have to be full of him, full of his energy working in you, His power, His Spirit made manifest. That's the only way to do this missional life with God. God. God releases his power for his purposes, which also

means he doesn't release his power for our own purposes. You can't just attach the name of Jesus to any prayer you want to pray hoping God will hear it if it has nothing to do with him. He reserves his power for His purpose. And His purpose is to make his son known in the world. His purpose is to exalt Jesus in every nation and tongue and language. And when you yield your life to his purpose, he opens the floodgates of heaven and unleashes his power. When you say, God, here's my life, use me. Here's my business. Use it to proclaim Jesus. Here's my career. Use it to proclaim Jesus. Here's my school, my campus, my family. Use it to make note of Jesus. And then Jesus releases all of his energy, because He reserves his power for His purpose. Sometimes you wonder, God, why do we not see the supernatural power and activity of God in America like we do in most places around the world? And I think it's because most Christians in America were living for our own purposes, not his own purpose.

Libin Abraham 38:56

We want to make much of our name, build our kingdoms, build our empires, and God says it would be so unkind of me to give my power for your own selfish purposes, because those things will fade. Those things will falter. The only thing that will stand is the person of Jesus. So if you give your life to the mission of God to proclaim Jesus, that's when you experience the supernatural power of God at work in the world. Amen, don't you believe that his power for His purpose through you? Here's the last thing that makes life meaningful. Our life is a glory bound life. A glory bound life. Let's go back to the first verse we read in verse 27 the mystery hidden for all ages, revealed, made known among the Gentiles, the glorious wealth of this mystery, Christ in you, the hope of what glory. Christ in you, the hope of glory. Christ in you. You is your secure guarantee of glory to come. You are not earth bound. You are glory bound. That's why we can make much of Jesus in face of difficulty and hardship and suffering, because the glory that is waiting for us, it is far greater than the trials of this world, than the inconveniences of this world, even the comforts of this world that's worth living for, because one day when Christ appears, then we, who are in Him, will appear in glory with him, and that's what we get to look forward to. The glory is not found in this world. It's not in our reputation. The glory we long for is to be with God in glory for all eternity, long we are glory bound. This is the hope of eternity that keeps us going in our mission, that keeps us going in our life, the glory that outweighs every difficulty of this earth. I want to illustrate this truth of Christ in us through some Tupperware. It's going to be deep theology through Tupperware. So bear with me. Give me some grace, if it doesn't all make sense, Christ in you, the hope of glory. Let me start this way. I got a few here. Told my son, Liam I was gonna do a magic trick, and so he's super excited, but he might be a little disappointed, almost there. All right. Is that it Okay? Here we go. This is you, who every one of you and me, this is you and Paul has shared with us. The mystery hidden for all ages is that Christ is where in you. Christ is in you. He's not up there somewhere. He is inside of you. And this is actually a permanent situation. He's not visiting. He can't be evicted out. He is sealed inside of you. He is the hope of glory. He lives where in you. But you know what? Also the New Testament teaches over and over again. The New Testament teaches that we are where we are in Christ. If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. Our hope is that we are in Christ. So not only is Christ in us, but we are where we are in in Christ. Guess what? That's also a sealed deal. That's also a permanent situation. We are forever inseparably united with Jesus, then you also have beautiful passages like Colossians three, verse three that says like this, For you died and your life, your life is hidden with Christ. Where in God, whoa, can you believe that So Christ is in you. You are in Christ. And your whole life is hidden with Christ in God. And this is the reality of where you live right now. This is your current address, Christ in you. You in Christ. You hidden with Christ in God. So don't you think for a moment that your life is empty, your life is incredibly full. Don't you think for a moment that cancer has the last word because my Bible says God has the last word because you are hidden with Christ. Don't you think for a moment that the volatility of our current role has to shake you up, because if it cannot shake Christ, it cannot shake you, because where are you? You're in Christ. Where is Christ? He's in you, and where are you? You're in God. This means your job loss doesn't have to have the final say, your troubles don't have to have the last word, because God is covering you. He is holding you. This is more safe and secure than the most anti theft, anti brake, safe system out there in the world. Nothing can break this apart because nothing can break God. Not even death couldn't do it. Not even the grave couldn't do it. Not even the demons in hell couldn't do it. Come on, if you believe it, stand on. It, stand on your feet. Not even sickness could do it. Not even hell could overcome Him. In Him is light, and the darkness cannot overcome this life. This is your current reality. You are safe in him. You are secure in Him for all eternity, long. So if it doesn't move, God, it can't move. You. Come on. Would you stand on your feet? Some of you need to believe this, because you feel tossed and thrown side to side, and you're wondering, God, where is the meaning of all of my life? Yes, and the meaning is in the mystery, no longer hidden, but fully revealed. Christ, in you, you in Christ, your life hidden in God. This is the hope of glory. Glory bound. You go where God goes. You experience all the attributes that is true about him, life, joy, peace, power, meaning, calling. I don't know what you're going through. I don't know why you need to be reminded of this today, but some of you, I think, are on the verge of giving up on something really special, and I'm just here to remind you,

you don't have to give up. You can give your life fully to Jesus. That's where strength is that's where hope is found. Do it. Now, for some of you, Christ isn't in you because you have yet to say yes to Jesus. Receive him as Lord, receive Him as Savior. And when you do in that moment, he moves into your heart. He goes to work. He turns a light on, he turns hope on, he turns joy on, and he begins to mature you. He calls you to a purpose bigger than you. He empowers you with himself, and all things are made new. Would you pray with me, father? I pray that this week, in the craziness of this world and whatever awaits us this week, we will live out this truth. Christ is in us, so we're going to push through, because you endured. You persevere. Christ is praying for us. The spirit is interceding for us. We are secure in the hands of God, and Jesus said, No one can snatch you out of my hand, so I pray that we just feel a fortress of protection, a fortress of strength rising up on the inside. So watch over your people with the almighty power from God working powerfully in them, we strive with your strength every day, step by step, Glory bound until we reach the shores of eternity. And we will say, it was all worth it. We love you, Jesus. Thank you for who you are in all this. In the Name of Jesus, we pray in the church that allowed Amen, come on, let's give it up for Jesus. In this mystery revealed Amen, amen, amen.