

“The Great Mystery”

New Hope Community Church
May 27th, 2018 / Colossians 1:24-29

Life Group Meeting

Colossians 1:24-29

A. Jesus Has Afflictions Yet to Be Completed (24,25)

1. Paul viewed his flesh as a **vessel** for fulfilling those afflictions (24)
 2. Paul recognized his assignment as **entrusted** by God (25)
 - His responsibility was for the benefit of the **people** of God
 - His calling was to teach God’s **truth** to the people
 3. The call to fill up the afflictions of Christ is for **all** saints
- **QUESTION:** How has God called me to fill up what is lacking in my Lord’s afflictions? _____

B. Jesus Has Truth Now Revealed That Was Previously Hidden (26-29)

1. Reviewing God’s plan to **redeem** mankind from hopelessness —
 - _____ ▪ Preserved from eternal **separation** through banishment
Covenant of **hope** (Gn 3:15)
 - _____ ▪ Preserved from **extinction** through the ark
Covenant of the **rainbow** (Gn 8:21)
 - _____ ▪ Preserved from false **worship** through a chosen nation
Covenant of **circumcision** (Gn 17:8-11)
 - _____ ▪ Preserved from worldly **bondage** through separation
Covenant of the **Law**
 - _____ ▪ Preserved from perpetual **failure** through a coming King
Covenant of an **eternal kingdom** for God’s people (2 S 7)
 - _____ ▪ Preserved from **condemnation** thru personal Savior (Ga 4)
Covenant of **grace** Jr 31:33/Hb 8:10
2. God has continually initiated the effort to —
 - **Deliver** mankind out of his hopeless bondage to —
(1) Satan (2) The world system (3) Personal sin
 - **Separate** mankind unto Himself in a personal relationship
3. Man has continually resisted God’s purpose, but pursued **self** rule and **earthly** treasure
4. The previously **hidden** truth is what Paul now proclaims (26)
 - The term ‘mystery’ speaks of a truth previously unknown about God’s plan that He has now **revealed**
 - From Eden until **Pentecost** this mystery was not understood
5. This mystery is of immeasurable **value** (27)
 - The Gentiles (non-Jews) are included
 - Christ Himself now **indwells** His people
 - What was impossible before (restored relationship with God) is possible now (the hope of **glory**)
 - What was impossible before (full obedience to the Law) is possible now (**maturity** in Christ) (28)

► **QUESTION:** In light of Colossians 1, how should I respond to Jesus?

QUESTIONS

1. Read Colossians 1:24-29
2. What do you think it means to “fill up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions”?
3. In Phil. 1, Paul wrote these words: ‘to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict you saw in me.’ If it is true that all saints are to be involved in ‘filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions’, what do you anticipate that might look like in your life?
4. Looking over the various covenants that God has made throughout human history, what does this reveal about the Creator?
5. Which of these covenants were dependent upon the response of faith by people?
6. If you were asked to explain the ‘mystery of Christ in you’ (v 27), what would you say?
7. Why is this called a ‘mystery’ — that is, something that was not previously understood but now is revealed? When was this mystery first revealed and begun to be understood?
8. Paul speaks of ‘the riches of the glory of the mystery’. Discuss together what are the riches of this mystery, and how it makes such a difference in the believer’s life today?