

# THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

## Lesson 4: The Mystery of the Church

*Colossians 1:24–29*

**Revelation of the mystery of Christ:** Paul suffered for preaching of the mystery of the gospel of Christ, which means that God has placed Jews and Gentiles into one body (*Colossians 1:24–29*).

- I. **Suffering:** Being a servant of Christ brought about suffering in Paul's life (*Colossians 1:24*).
  - A. Christ's death and suffering for our sins on the cross was complete and sufficient for our salvation (*1 Peter 3:18*).
  - B. Paul's sufferings emerged due to his calling by Christ to take the gospel to the Gentiles (*Acts 9:3–5, 15–16*).
  - C. As followers of Christ, we should expect suffering in light of His suffering (*1 Peter 4:1–2*).
  - D. Paul took great joy in being able to suffer for Christ in his service to the church (*Colossians 1:24*).
- II. **Stewardship:** Paul focused on fulfilling the responsibility God had given Him to proclaim the good news of the gospel, especially to Gentiles (*Colossians 1:25*).
  - A. The Lord entrusted Paul with the responsibility of taking the gospel to the Gentiles (*Colossians 1:25a*).
  - B. Paul's ministry of the gospel fulfilled God's calling on his life and God's directive to take the gospel into all the world (*Colossians 1:25b; Matthew 28:19–20*).
- III. **Mystery:** The previously hidden truth that now has been revealed is that God has put Jews and Gentiles together into one body (*Colossians 1:26–27; Ephesians 3:1–7*).
- IV. **Maturity:** Paul aimed at developing Christians to be mature followers of Christ so that He might do all He desires in each believer's life (*Colossians 1:28*).
- V. **Ministry:** Paul worked tirelessly, all the time trusting Christ to work through him to accomplish what God called him to do (*Colossians 1:29*).