



Week of January 28, 2019: Colossians 1:24-29

Discussion Questions Set #1

“Now 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. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To 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. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.” (Colossians 1:24-29)

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”. (Matthew 20:26-28)

“Serve one another humbly in love”. (Galatians 5:1)

Paul demonstrates throughout our passage from Colossians an attitude of servanthood that seems to infuse all aspects of his following of Jesus. He suffers for others and strenuously contends on their behalf with very little personal gain – remember that he’s likely never been to Colossae and is imprisoned at the time of this letter. Servanthood seems like a big deal to Paul as one reads through this passage.

1. Why do you think servanthood is such a key concept for Paul?
2. Do you think that we view servanthood as important in our following of Jesus as we ought to?
3. Why should servanthood be important in our following of Jesus?
4. What barriers might exist to servanthood in our present culture?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“This is the gospel ... of which I, Paul, have become a servant”. (Colossians 1:23b)

1. What do you think it means to be a servant of the gospel? What difficulties might be presented if we were to truly become servants of the gospel?

“You learned [the gospel] from Epaphras, our fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf”. (Colossians 1:7)

2. What do you think it means to be a servant of Christ? How might this differ from being a servant of the gospel? What challenges exist to being a servant of Christ?

“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. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness”. (Colossians 1:23-24)

3. What do you think it means to be a servant of the church? Is the concept of a servant of the church relegated only to those who find themselves in positions of leadership within the church or are we all to be servants of the church? Do you regularly think of yourself as a servant of the church?
4. Discuss the difference between viewing the church as a service-provider (something external to ourselves of which we frequent) and viewing the church as a body (something of which we are specifically a part). What differences might these attitudes have upon how we approach the church and our involvement in the church?



Discussion Questions Set #3

“The mystery ... is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To 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”.
(Colossians 1:26-27)

1. As you consider the mystery that Paul declares – that “Christ is in us, the hope of glory” - what thoughts does this bring to mind?
2. How is it that by understanding the mystery of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” maturity develops? What do you think this maturity actually looks like?
3. In service, we discussed how the mystery of “Christ in us, the hope of glory” is made possible by the presence of the Holy Spirit with us. Why is it important to understand that the Holy Spirit and His gifts have been given to the church for the common good?
4. How is it that the secret of “Christ in us, the hope of glory” is further revealed when we willingly and cheerfully serve out of our Spirit-giftedness?