



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth



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The Supremacy of Christ & the Necessity of Maturity



**The Not-So-Big-
But-Bigger-Than-Normal**

**Big Year
2026**

**275 Target Species
in Missouri**





COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

- Paul's ministry



COLOSSIANS *Rooted for Growth*

- Paul's ministry
- A mystery revealed



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- Paul's ministry
- A mystery revealed
- A call to maturity



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Col 1:24-2:5

- ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,
- ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,
- ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.
- ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.



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- ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,
- ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.
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II Corinth 11:23-27

- ²³ Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.
- ²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
- ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;
- ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;
- ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.



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- ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
- ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.



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- What were Christ's afflictions?



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- What were Christ's afflictions?
- What is lacking about them that Paul can fulfill?



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θλῖψις (thlipsis)

- Tribulation and connotes a pressing, being pressed together with pressure, a difficult and uncomfortable squeezing.
- The only place it is attributed to Christ.
- All other 44 instances refer to Christ's followers.

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Acts 9

- ¹⁵ "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

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Acts 9

- 15 "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."
- 16 "For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."



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2 Timothy 3

- ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
- ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



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μυστήριον (mystērion)

- Used 28 times in the New Testament
- Almost always refers to this mystery of which Paul is speaking



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Matthew 13

- ¹¹ "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given ..."



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Matthew 13


- ¹⁶ "... But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.
- ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."



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I Peter 1


- 10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,
- 11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.
- 12** It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.



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I Corinthians 1

- ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,
²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,
²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



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Proverbs 2

- 1 My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
- 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
- 3 yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
- 4 if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,

Proverbs 2

- 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;



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τέλειον (teleion)

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Eph 4:13 "... to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,"

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Matt 5:48 "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

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How do You Become Mature in Christ?

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- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God

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I Corinthians 9:27

I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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Galatians 5:16 – “walk by the Spirit”

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Galatians 5:25 – “keep in step with the Spirit”

Galatians 5:22-23 – “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”



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- ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.



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So ... Therefore ... What Now



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So ... Therefore ... What Now

- Paul's ministry
 - Is the gospel a nice adornment or is it central to your life?



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- A mystery revealed
 - How does the immensity of this truth affect you?



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So ... Therefore ... What Now

- Paul's ministry
 - Is the gospel a nice adornment or is it central to your life?
- A mystery revealed
 - How does the immensity of this truth affect you?
- A call to maturity
 - Where are you in your lifelong journey towards spiritual maturity?

So ... Therefore ... What Now

“Our first step to victory in spiritual warfare is to trust only in the mercy and grace of God; all who trust in themselves will soon be cast down. Believers triumph in God, and his revelation of himself to them, by which they distinguish themselves from those that live without God in the world.”

- *Matthew Henry*

18th Century British Preacher