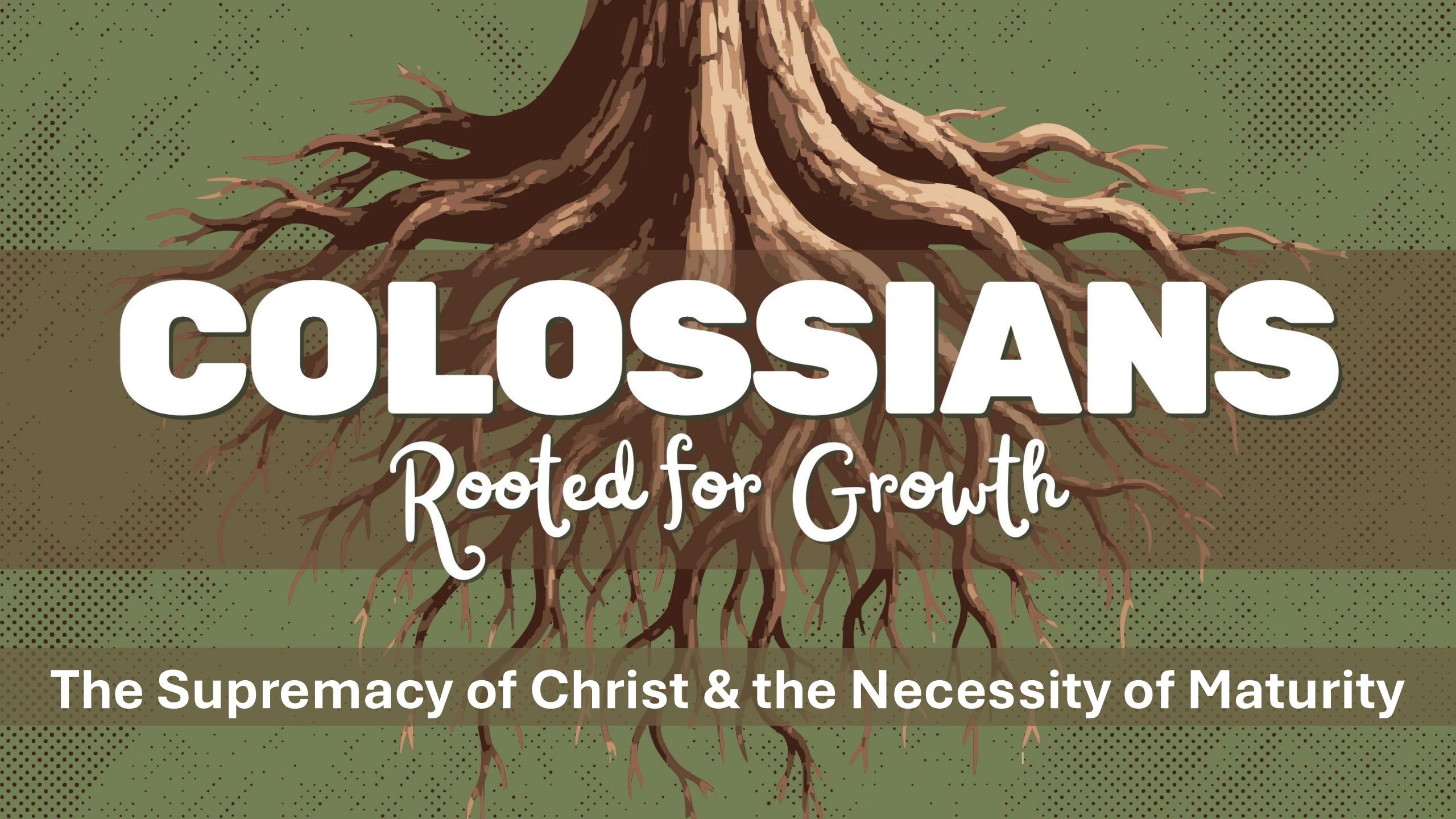


COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth

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

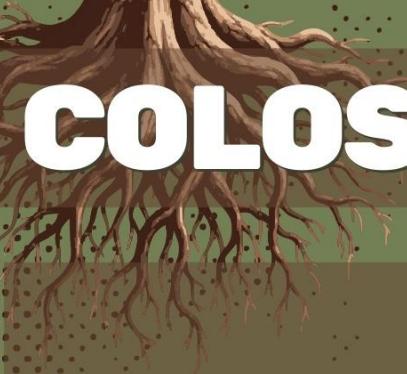
- Paul's ministry



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth

- Paul's ministry
- A mystery revealed



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth

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



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

Col 1:24-2:5

- 29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.
- 1** For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,
- 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.
- 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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

:
:
:
:

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

:
:
:
:

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

:
:
:
:

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

:
:
:
:

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

⋮
⋮
⋮

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

- 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.

- 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.
- 28** And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

- What were Christ's afflictions?

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,

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



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

- What were Christ's afflictions?
 - To bear the Cross of Atonement
- What is lacking about them that Paul can fulfill?

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,

- What were Christ's afflictions?
 - To bear the Cross of Atonement
 - Sufferings brought about from preaching the Gospel
- What is lacking about them that Paul can fulfill?

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,

- What were Christ's afflictions?
 - To bear the Cross of Atonement
 - Sufferings brought about from preaching the Gospel
- What is lacking about them that Paul can fulfill?
 - Sufferings brought about from continuing to preach the Gospel

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,

- What were Christ's afflictions?
 - To bear the Cross of Atonement
 - Sufferings brought about from preaching the Gospel
- What is lacking about them that Paul can fulfill?
 - Sufferings brought about from continuing to preach the Gospel
 - Fulfilling the Great Commission

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,



- What were Christ's afflictions?
 - To bear the Cross of Atonement
 - Sufferings brought about from preaching the Gospel
- What is lacking about them that Paul can fulfill?
 - Sufferings brought about from continuing to preach the Gospel
 - Fulfilling the Great Commission

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,



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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,



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,



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.”

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,



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.”



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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,

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,

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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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.

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.

μυστήριον (mystērion)

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

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.

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 ...”

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.

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."



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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 ...

COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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**. 

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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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.





COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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.

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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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.

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;



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

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.

τέλειον (teleion)

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

τέλειον (teleion)

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

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

τέλειον (teleion)

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

James 1:4 "... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing"

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

τέλειον (teleion)

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

James 1:4 "... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing"

I Cor 14:20 "... in your thinking be mature."

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

τέλειον (teleion)

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

James 1:4 "... that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing"

I Cor 14:20 "... in your thinking be mature."

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

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

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

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)

I Corinthians 9:27

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

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)
- Re-order your loves

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)
- Re-order your loves
- Walk with the Holy Spirit

28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)
- Re-order your loves
- Walk with the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16 – “walk by the Spirit”

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)
- Re-order your loves
- Walk with the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16 – “walk by the Spirit”

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

How do You Become Mature in Christ?

- Re-order your priorities: from pleasing self to pleasing God
- Develop consistency and practice (the “spiritual disciplines”)
- Re-order your loves
- Walk with the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16 – “walk by the Spirit”

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”

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

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.

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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

Col 1:24-2:5

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

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.

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.



COLOSSIANS Rooted for Growth

Col 1:24-2:5

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

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.

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.

29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face,

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.

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.



COLOSSIANS

Rooted for Growth

So ... Therefore ... What Now

So ... Therefore ... What Now

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

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?

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