

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Colossians 1:24-27

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.

Study Guide 29 January 2012 The Supremacy of Christ in the Christian



Summary

Paul speaks about the greatest treasure, and what are true riches. It's so valuable that he labors for it, but even more than that he is willing to joyfully suffer for its sake!

What are these riches? Christ in us, the hope of glory. This is a nuanced understanding of the Christian life in which we have the present reality of Christ's indwelling presence but also not the finality of the Kingdom. The present reality makes us 1) cleansed in Christ, 2) have authority in His name, and 3) enjoy fellowship with Him.

Because the 'already / not yet' nature of the Kingdom is nuanced, we are to ensure we understand it rightly. An overemphasis on the Kingdom now part leaves us discouraged when things go wrong, but an overemphasis on only future glory means that we live without any sense of expectation of God's present work in our lives.

Key points

The Kingdom of God is here in Christ, which gives us:

A cleansed nature in Christ

Authority in His name

Present fellowship with Him

Yet we don't get it all now. He is the hope of final glory.

Questions

>>What does Paul mean when he says he is "filling up (in his flesh) what is lacking in Christ's afflictions"?

>>What is the logical reason Paul gives for his rejoicing in his sufferings for the sake of others?

>>Is the truth of Christ in you only an objective truth for you or do you live in the reality of it?

>>Are you more prone to emphasize that Christ is in you, or that He is the hope of glory?

Final thoughts

The present reality of Christ is dwelling within us, let us live up to what we have already attained.