

**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 1:24-29

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

## Study Guide 5 Dec 2010 – Christ in You, the Hope of Glory



### Summary

Paul sees the sovereignty of God in all things, even though they may seem like suffering in the present. Because God is loving and supreme, we can trust in His big picture. Paul rejoices in his suffering.

Paul's sufferings are for the sake of the church. His suffering is not a vague hope, but a specific and concrete response. There is a commitment and a cost.

Paul wants to make the word of God fully known. Our world today has many bibles but little biblical godliness. This precious Word that God has given to us by which to know the Truth must be highly prized and pursued.

We look forward to the coming kingdom of Christ, for which we toil and suffer, because we keep a kingdom perspective, focused on the life to come instead of this present life.

We preach Jesus. True change in life is not effective through resisting sin by pure will. It must be replaced by something more powerful – Jesus – or else we are just emptying the house for another evil to come in. Jesus is the beginning and the end, the source and the goal. Let us become more like him, drawing on His power to pay the cost to be transformed and to preach His gospel.

### Key points

We rejoice in our sufferings and we suffer for the benefit of the church.

### Explanation

>>In what ways can we suffer for the body of Christ?

>>How do we present ourselves "mature in Christ"?

>>How do we keep Christ the focus of our lives?

### Application

>>Make a commitment to become more intimately acquainted with the bible by reading it regularly.

You may use a reading plan available at [www.rhc.org.sg](http://www.rhc.org.sg).

>>Make a commitment to sacrifice your freedom or enjoyment for the sake of others in the church.

### Final thoughts

Jesus is the source of our power to labour and the goal of all our life's efforts.