

SHH! I'LL TELL YOU A MYSTERY

Colossians 1:24-29

²⁴I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church.²⁵God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you.

²⁶This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people.²⁷For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

²⁸So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.²⁹That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

Colossians 1:24-29 (NLT)

Do you like mysteries? I enjoy reading a good detective novel and even watching them on television. I even enjoy thinking about puzzles and good riddles. There is something within most people that makes us want to know secrets ... and tell them.

Paul writes to God's holy people in Colossae about a great secret, a mystery, that has been revealed in the church age. Whenever the New Testament uses this word, it is referring to something that was hidden, but has now been revealed. Our study this week will help us uncover the secret and think about it.

This would be a good time to read all of chapter one again paying special attention to the connection between 1:23 and what he is telling them in 1:24-29. *How do you think Paul wanted these Gentile believers to feel as a result of reading his words?*

Looking at the following Scriptures, how had Paul suffered for these Gentile believers (Acts 9:22-30; Ephesians 3:13; Philippians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 11:23-29)?

What was Paul's attitude towards his present imprisonment for the Good News (1:24-25)?

Often our attitude when others don't treat us fairly is hardly gladness. Perhaps that is because we have forgotten our purpose in suffering. Maybe it is because we have forgotten our example in suffering. *What did Jesus suffer (1:20)?*

Jesus' sufferings on the cross made peace so that everything could be reconciled to God. It took his death in a physical body to bring us into God's presence holy, blameless, and without a single fault. *Is it worth suffering for that Good News so that others might hear?*

Paul certainly considered it worthwhile! *How else did he think of it (1:25, 28-29)?*

He says that this message, the Good News, was kept secret. *Why would he say that (1:26; 1:16-17)?*

It was a secret, but the mystery has now been told. *What was this mystery (1:27; Ephesians 1:13-14)?*

As a result of the telling of this Good News, Gentile believers have the assurance of sharing in Christ's glory. This is not only true for Gentiles, but it must also be true for the Jews as well. It is not possible to be saved by following the Law of Moses or any of the further commands which the teachers of the Law had laid on others.

How did Paul make the Good News known to the Gentiles (1:28)?

What was his source of power (1:29)?