

“CHRIST’S PREEMINENCE DEFENDED”
Colossians 1:24-2:5

PAUL’S SUFFERING. Colossians 1:24

- **“sufferings”** Gk. *pathēma* - “misfortune, calamity, evil, affliction” Ref. Acts 9:16; II Cor. 11:24-27.
- Paul’s current residence. Ref. Ephesians 3:1; Philippians 1:12-14
- **“afflictions”** Gk. *thlipsis* - “pressing together, pressure, distress, tribulation” Ref. II Cor. 11:28.
- Q: The afflictions of Christ are lacking? NO. Ref. Romans 3:21-26

“When life overwhelms us, when the bottom is falling out, this is where Scripture takes us: to God. We do not achieve internal calm by securing external calm. We find internal calm by looking to God.”

Dane C. Ortlund

Post conversion-Pre missionary Journey’s (37-38 A.D.)

- Jews plot to kill Paul Damascus. Ref. Acts 9:23-25
- Hellenists seeking to kill Paul Jerusalem. Ref. Acts 9:29-30

1st Missionary Journey (48-49 A.D.)

- Jews incited devout women & leading men. (Antioch of Pisidia) Ref. Acts 13:50
- Unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, an attempt to stone them. (Iconium) Ref. Acts 14:1-7
- Jews from Antioch & Iconium persuaded crowds to stone Paul. (Lystra) Ref. Acts 14:19
- Much debate with believers. (Jerusalem) Ref. Acts 15:1-29
- Contention over John Mark Acts 15:36-39

2nd Missionary Journey (49-53 A.D.)

- Seized, beaten with rods and jailed. (Philippi) Ref. Acts 16:19-24
- Mob of wicked men. (Thessalonica) Ref. Acts 17:5-9
- Jews from Thessalonica came causing trouble. (Berea) Ref. Acts 17:13
- Jews made a united attack on Paul. (Corinth) Ref. Acts 18:12

3rd Missionary Journey (53-57 A.D.)

- Riot breaks out. (Ephesus) Ref. Acts 19:21-41
- Paul’s current residence. Ref. Ephesians 3:1; Philippians 1:12-14

PAUL’S STEWARDSHIP. Colossians 1:25-27

- **“stewardship”** Gk. *oikonomia* - “management of a household, oversight, overseer, administration”. Ref. Acts 9:9:15; 26:16-18 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. v.26
- **“mystery”** Gk. *mystērion* (28x N.T.) - “made known, manifested, revealed in a manner and at a time appointed by God”.
- **“glory”** Gk. *doxa* - **1.** “of that condition with God the Father in heaven to which Christ was raised after he had achieved his work on earth”. **2.** “the glorious condition of blessedness into which is appointed and promised that true Christians shall enter after their Savior’s return from heaven”

PAUL’S SOURCE. Colossians 1:28-29

- **“mature”** Gk. *teleios* - “brought to its end, finished, perfect, full grown” (complete NASB)
- Not a wisdom of this age. Ref. I Corinthians 2:6; 14:20
- To have discernment. Ref. Hebrews 5:14

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. The false teachers promised to give people a “hidden wisdom” that would make them “spiritual elite”. But all true spiritual wisdom is found only in Jesus Christ.”

Warren Wiersbe

- **“struggling”** Gk. *agōnizomai* - “contend, strive”.
- To attain to the unity of faith. Ref. Ephesians 4:13

“God buries His workmen, but carries on His work”

John Wesley

PAUL’S STRUGGLE. Colossians 2:1-5

- **“struggle”** Gk. *agōn* - “a contest, battle, trial”.
- Notice the similarities. Ref. Proverbs 2:3-6
- **“may delude”** Gk. *paralogizomai* - “to deceive by false reasoning, beguile” Ref. Col. 2:8, 16-18, 23.

He who said, "**I am meek and lowly in heart**," revealed His greatness by His voluntary stooping in life and death. If we are to be like Him we must shun the feeling of superiority over our fellows, and, in love, serve. We shall be ready to stoop to their help and bow in the presence of goodness, without exaggerating our own importance, for GOD can do without us.

Ralph G. Turnbull

Chiastic structure

- A "Rejoice" (1:24)
 - B "make known," "riches," "mystery" (1:27)
 - C "struggling" (1:29)
 - C "struggle" (2:1)
 - B "knowledge," "riches," "mystery" (2:2)
- A "rejoicing" (2:5)

"SELF-LOVE is that master-passion in every human heart.

Let us give self-love the first place in the inventory and catalogue of our passions, because it has the largest place in all our hearts and lives... It is out of self-love that all our other evil passions spring. The whole fall and ruin and misery of our present human nature lies in this, that in every human being self-love has taken, in addition to its own place, the place of the love of GOD and of the love of man also. We naturally now love nothing and no one but ourselves. And as long as self-love is in the ascendant in our hearts, all the passions that are awakened in us by our self-love will be selfish with its selfishness, inhuman with its inhumanity, and ungodly with its ungodliness. And it is to kill and extirpate our so passionate self-love that is the end and aim of all GOD's dealings with us in this world.."

Alexander Whyte