

Soaring Oaks Presbyterian Church: Adult Bible Study Questions for 12/24/2006
Colossians 1:24-29

Start by reading the whole passage.

1. Reread Colossians 1:24.

(a) Why do you think Paul said, “I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake.”? If you find it hard to answer this question, consider this clue: In what way were the Colossians a blessing to Paul in contrast to his sorrow over his own people, the Jews? [Read Romans 9:1-3 concerning Jewish rejection of the gospel Paul preached.]

(b) The second part of verse 24 may sound strange to your ears. What could possibly be lacking in Christ’s perfect atoning sacrifice (his afflictions) for the church? Try to construct a Biblically sound answer before considering the following verses: Colossians 1:3-8; Romans 10:14-15; Ephesians 1:15-16]

(c) What are you doing today toward “filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, the church”?

2. Reread Colossians 1:25. Paul says he “became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known.” Read the following passages that show how Paul was called and received this stewardship to minister God’s word, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. [Acts 9:1-14; Acts 22:17-21; Galatians 1:11 – 2:3]

(a) What was new or especially encouraging to you in these passages?

(b) Was Paul’s path to faith in Jesus Christ the “normal” path in his day? What is the normal path the faith today? I suggest that the normal path today shares at least one element with Paul’s personal path. What do you think that might be?

3. Reread Colossians 1:26-27.

(a) Verse 26 can be the subject of much study as to how and why God kept hidden this glorious “mystery” of “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Whatever you may know of this subject, try to capture it in a few (3 to 4) short sentences to share on Sunday.

(b) Verse 27 is treasured by many believers. Read Romans 8:9-11; 1 John 5:11-12; Galatians 2:20; and Colossians 1:11-22. What thanks to God do these words of his prompt in you this day?

4. Reread Colossians 1:28. Paul speaks of “warning everyone” and of being “mature in Christ”.

(a) How might you “warn” others in relation to the gospel? [Read also Hebrews 2:1-4.]

(b) Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 and Hebrews 5:11 – 6:2. Christian maturity is the fruit of repentance (turning from evil and to the Lord), learning truth, and applying truth. What corporate practice does Paul rebuke as infantile in his first letter to the Corinthians? What spiritual teachings are described as “elementary” in the letter to the Hebrews? If these elementary teachings cover all or almost all of your understanding of the Christian life, what will you do to pursue “maturity?”

5. Reread Colossians 1:29. This verse has humbled many Christians so that the Holy Spirit began to bear much fruit through them. What do you think is the key to this transformation? How do you see it in relation to your walk with God?