

Communion Meditation – Colossians

Colossians 1.24-26

“Us in Place of Christ”

April 17th, 2016

Contrast of This With Last Message

- Last message c/vss19-23 was “Christ in Place of Us”
- Today’s message is “Us in Place of Christ”
- Today’s message is only about v24

v24a ~ “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you”

- Paul is not a masochist / He does not like pain or being tortured
 - Nor is God a sadist / He doesn’t take pleasure in our suffering itself
- So “why does Paul ‘rejoice’ in his ‘suffering’”?
- “for you” ~ He’s speaking not only of Colossians / but of all churches

v24b ~ “fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ”

- This phrase means something special / But it also doesn’t mean something
 - This does not mean Christ’s sacrifice lacked any atoning value
 - **Read Heb 10.11-14** “And every priest . . . who are being sanctified.”
 - This does mean the Church’s ongoing sacrifice serves a God-given purpose
 - **Read 1 Peter 4.12-14** “Beloved, do not think . . . He is glorified.”

v24c ~ “for the sake of His body which is the church”

- The sufferings of the Church (through individuals) results in strength
- To Tertullian is credited, “The blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.”
- Cause and effect are not easily discerned
 - Does Church grow because of persecution? -or-
 - Does persecution come because of growth of the Church?

Christ’s sacrificial death fully satisfied the Father’s requirement for justice

But those who hated Christ were not satisfied

Those that hate Christ will never be fully satisfied

The Church continues to bear their abuse and reproach

Persecution of Christians

- 1) highlights the ongoing relevance of Christ and the Church, and
- 2) tends toward the purification and growth of the Church, or
- 3) the judgment of God in extinguishing it in a people