

March 15, 2020

Pastor Andy McClellan
Ministry, Mystery and Maturity
Colossians 1:24-2:5

As a servant of God, you can rejoice in suffering when....

1. The Church understands they are **RICH** in Christ, 1:25-28; 2:2-3 (cf. Col. 4:3; Rom. 8:17-18; 1 Pet. 4:13; Eph. 1:17-23; 3:7-19; 1 Cor. 1:22-24; 2:7).
2. Everyone is growing into a **MATURE** life in Christ, 1:28-2:3 (cf. Eph. 4:13-15; Rom. 8:29; 16:25).
3. Christ's people stand **FIRM** in their faith in Christ, 2:4-5; 8, 18 (cf. Col. 1:23; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 14:40; 16:13; 1 Thess. 3:8; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:9; Eph. 6:10-18).

Family Time:

Paul suffered and worked hard for the church at Colossae (Col. 1:24, 2:1). Think about those who were part of your growing to know Jesus? What kind of "toil" or hard work (or even suffering) did they endure so that you could mature in Christ? Spend time in thankful prayer to God for the work He empowered them to do (1:29). Consider calling, writing, or contacting them so that they might "rejoice" in the "firmness of your faith in Christ (2:5)."

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. As a minister (servant) of God, Paul toiled, struggled, and suffered with joy so that others could grow in the firmness of their faith. According to Eph. 4:12, who are also ministers and servants in the Church? In what ways has God called you to "toil" or "suffer" so that others can become mature in Christ? Have you been able to rejoice in the midst of that toil or suffering? Why or why not?
2. Read Col. 1:27-2:3. What are the "riches" and "treasures" that we receive when we put our faith in Christ? What riches are offered by the world's "persuasive arguments (2:4)" and how do they compare? Why are they so persuasive? What steps are you taking to ensure that you aren't persuaded?
3. Paul's goal is to see "everyone mature in Christ (1:28)." He then describes what that maturity looks like in 2:2. Paint a picture of what would it look like if "everyone" at DCC was maturing in Christ? What would it look like in our ministries, homes, neighborhoods, and larger

community? How can you be a part of helping DCC grow toward that maturity? What opportunities are available to you and what gifts do you have to offer?

4. In Colossians 2:5, Paul uses military terms ("good order" & "firmness") to describe what he is looking forward to seeing in the Colossians' faith. What do these terms mean for an army in the midst of a battle? What point is Paul making by using these words for the Church? What battles are you currently fighting (ex. Rom. 7:14-25; Eph. 6:12; 1 Tim. 6:11-12)? What help do you need to keep in good order and firm in your faith? Who can you go to for that help?

NEXT WEEK: "Made Alive to Walk," Colossians 2:6-15