

September 1, 2019

Mystery of Christ Colossians 1:21-29 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

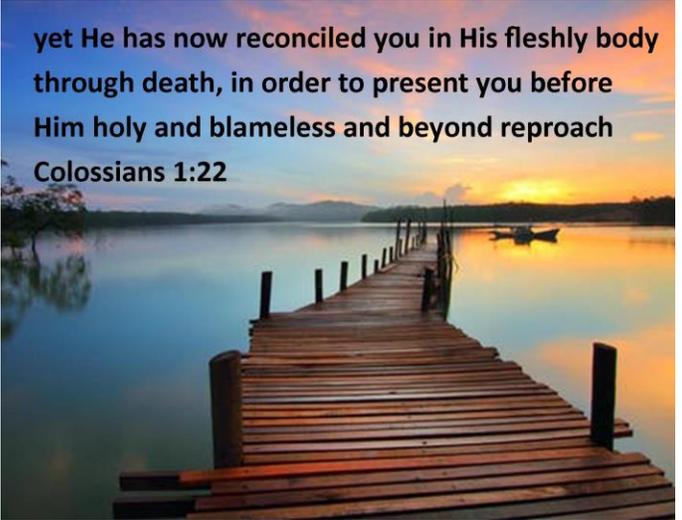
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach
Colossians 1:22

This week we look at the last section of the first chapter of Colossians. Here Paul reminds us of the incredible redemption we have all been offered. We have been reconciled with Christ and presented holy and blameless through Him. Paul makes it very clear that he is willing to suffer for the advancement of this message, the gospel. It is his life mission to teach people about this great mystery that we have not previously known. The mystery is the indwelling of Christ. No one likes to suffer so it is hard to understand when Paul says he rejoices in suffering. However, when we understand that we are part of the body of Christ and we have the greatest message ever told we can see why it is important to do whatever we can to share the message. Join us this week as we seek to understand Paul's rejoicing and how we can have joy in sharing the gospel.



Colossians 1:21-29 (NASB)

²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. ²⁵ Of *this church* I was made a minister according to

the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God, ²⁶ *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Who is presented holy and blameless? (v. 22)

9. Why does Paul rejoice in suffering? (v. 24)

10. How is the church the body of Christ? (v. 24)

11. What does Paul mean by “what is lacking in Christ’s affliction”?

12. What is the mystery that was hidden in the past? (v. 26)

13. Who does Paul instruct to be complete in Christ? (v. 28)

14. What is the purpose of Paul’s labor in verse 29?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

15. Is Clear Lake Bible Church considered the Body of Christ? What does this mean? How does it impact our actions?

16. Have you ever rejoiced in suffering? Have you ever thought you should?

17. What are you willing to do this week to share the mystery of the gospel?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes