

Col. 1:24

# ***Thankfulness and Suffering***

## ***Return to the Lord, Part Two***

Sermon Notes for March 20, 2011 by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

1. Ubiquitous Suffering
2. A Heavenly Living Room Perspective
3. Return to the Lord and Be Healed
4. What Is Lacking in Christ's Afflictions?
5. Purposes or Types of Suffering
  - A. Job - Mysterious (Not About You!)
  - B. Rom. 5:2-6 Sanctifying (Moral Effect - Piper, Purifying)
  - C. Phil. 3:10 Deepening (Intimacy Effect, Knowing Christ)
  - D. 2 Cor. 4:17 Glorifying (Glory Effect)
  - E. 2 Cor. 1:4 Comforting Others (Understanding Others)
  - F. Daniel 12:1 Messianic Fulfilling (Birth Pangs, 30-70AD)
  - G. Col. 1:24 Propagating (Getting the Value to Others)
6. The Context for the Strange Statement (See Attached Outline)

## Colossians 1:15-2:15 (Adapted from Peter Leithart)

### The Preeminence of the Firstborn

**A. 15** He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or **principalities** or powers. All things were created **through Him and for Him**. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the **firstborn from the dead**, that in **all things** He may have the preeminence.

### A Pleasing Reconciliation of All Things By the Suffering of the One in Whom Is all Fullness

**B. 19** For it **pleased** the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His **cross**.

### The Colossians Part in This, Gospel and Response

**C. 21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled **22** in the body of **His flesh** through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. [Conceptual Link]

### Paul's Joy in Suffering

**D. 24** I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my **flesh** what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, **25** of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

### The Mystery Revealed, Christ in the Gentiles

**E. 26** the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. **27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### The Apostolic Proclamation, Labor and Conflict

**F. 28** Him we **preach**, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. **29** To this end I also **labor**, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. **2:1** For I want you to know what a great **conflict** I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the **flesh**,

### Encouragement, Unity and the Mystery

**E'. 2** that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

### Joy in the Product of His Sufferings

**D'. 5** For though I am absent in the **flesh**, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

### Walk in Thankfulness

**C'. 6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, **7** rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. [Conceptual Link]

### In Christ (and His Sufferings), Not the World, Is All Fullness and Wisdom

**B'. 8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. **9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

### You Have Been Made Complete and Alive Together With Him

**A.. 10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all **principalities** and **power**. **11** In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the **flesh**, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your **flesh**, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** Having disarmed **principalities** and **powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.