

# Glorious Announcement: Jesus Lives in You

Colossians 1:24-29

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / 13-Dec-2015

## I. Christ living in us means our **SUFFERING** is reason to rejoice.

**Col. 1:24** <sup>24</sup>Now I **rejoice in my sufferings for your sake**, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church...

### Why should we be willing to suffer "with joy"?

a. Our suffering is a sign that Christ really is alive and actively working in us.

Remember—when Christ died on the cross, He fully paid for our sins, leaving nothing left for us to "do" to make ourselves right with God.

**Col 2:14** <sup>13</sup> And **you, who were dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive** together with him, having forgiven us **all** our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by **canceling** the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, **nailing** it to the cross.

**Heb. 10:12,14** <sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time **a single sacrifice** for sins, **he sat down** at the right hand of God... <sup>14</sup> For by **a single offering** he has **perfected** for all time those who are being sanctified.

Even though God was satisfied with Christ's atoning death, His payment on our behalf, Christ's enemies are not...and so we suffer.

"We should bear in mind that although Christ, by means of the afflictions which he endured, rendered complete satisfaction to God, so that Paul is able to glory in nothing but the cross (Gal. 6:14), the enemies of Christ were not satisfied! They hated Jesus with insatiable hatred, and wanted to add to His afflictions. But since he is no longer physically present on earth, their arrows, which are meant especially for him, strike his followers. It is in that sense that all true believers are in his stead supplying what, as the enemies see it, is lacking in the afflictions which Jesus endured. Christ's afflictions overflow toward us."

Hendriksen, William. *Exposition of Colossians and Philemon*.  
Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1964. 87. Print.

**Mark 13:13** <sup>13</sup>And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**John 15:18-21** <sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. <sup>21</sup> But all these

things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

**2 Cor. 1:5** <sup>5</sup>For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

**What about you?** How are you responding to the areas in your life where God has seen fit to allow suffering? Where is God calling you to suffer because He lives in you?

## II. Christ living in us means we're STEWARDS of the Gospel, and so we SERVE others with a purpose—the building up of the body of Christ.

**Col. 1:24b-26** <sup>24</sup> ...for the sake of his body, that is, the church, <sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the **stewardship from God that was given to me for you**, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

As stewards, we've been *entrusted* with something—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We serve for the purpose of building up the body of Christ, the church!

**Eph. 4:12,13** <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up the body of Christ**, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood**, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Just like parents sacrificially serve their kids, Paul gladly, sacrificially served his brothers and sisters to build them up as Christians.

**2 Cor. 12:14,15** <sup>14</sup>Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. <sup>15</sup> **I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.**

**What about you?** How is God calling you to respond to the fact that we're called to serve one another? How is Christ working in and through you to build up the body of Christ? How do you willingly, joyfully, sacrificially serve for the building up of the body of Christ, the church?

## III. Christ living in us means we suffer and serve with one ultimate goal: SANCTIFICATION—helping each other please God and become more like Jesus!

**Col. 1:27-29** <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **that we may present everyone mature in Christ.** <sup>29</sup>For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

**What about you?** Are you devoted to the same goal as Paul—the building up of others in Christ? How has God called you to “struggle” to that end? Is there time, emotion, energy or something else the Lord would have you sacrifice so His energy might work powerfully within you for His glory and others' good?