

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS
COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Colossians set Jesus before us as the One deserving of being our everything. (Col. 1.18)
2. **COLOSSIANS 1.24:** *"I now rejoice in my sufferings."* How can we be happy in the midst of sufferings? (cf. Rom. 5.3; James 1.2)

I. TWO DESCRIPTIONS

- A. The description of the church.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 1.24:** The church is the body of Christ describing our connection to Jesus.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 1.24:** The church is the "called out" describing our transfer. (cf. Matt. 18.17; Acts 19.22)
 3. **COLOSSIANS 1.26:** The church is comprised of saints describing our separation. (1 Pet. 1.16; 2 Cor. 6.17)
- B. The description of the Bible.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 1.25:** The Bible is the word of God.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 1.26:** The Bible is the mystery of salvation revealed. (1 Pet. 1.10,11; Eph. 3.3-5)

II. BEING HAPPY WHEN WE SUFFER

- A. Everyone has to suffer hardships in life.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 1.24:** *"my sufferings for you."*
 2. **COLOSSIANS 1.24:** *"the afflictions of Christ."*
 3. **COLOSSIANS 1.29:** *"strivings"*
- B. How can we remain happy when we suffer?
 1. Look up to God and remember that God is there and will help you as He has in the past. (Ps. 13.6).
 2. Look down from God's perspective to understand why He allows you to suffer. (Heb. 12.5,6,10,11)
 3. Look inside yourself to see how you are becoming a better person through suffering. (Rom. 5.3)
 4. Look outside to others and see how you can help them by being sympathetic. (Heb. 2.17; 4.15)

CONCLUSION: Your relationship with God and the guidance of His word is how to be happy when you hurt.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST **MAY 15, 2022**
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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

May 15, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

"WE ARE BRETHREN"

It is a classic expression in the old westerns: "This town ain't big enough for the two of us." The two challenge each other to a gunfight. The winner gets to stay in town (and stay alive). There was a similar situation between Abram and Lot although less barbaric.

We read in Genesis 13 that Abram was *"very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold"* (Gen. 13.2). Lot also *"had flocks and herds and tents"* (Gen. 13.5). As they tried to dwell in the land together, tension mounted between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen which also created tension between Abram and Lot (Gen. 13.7). Feeling the tension, Abram said, *"Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren"* (Gen. 13.8). It is worthy of note that Abram pointed to their being brethren as the reason why there should be no strife between them.

How often is their strife between the brethren in Christ? Are there brethren that you no longer talk to because of unresolved conflict? Paul writes that strife between brethren is a sign of immaturity (1 Cor. 3.3). Paul warned the Galatians not to *"bite and devour one another"* (Gal. 5.15). We need to remember that we are brethren and that should move us to work to resolve conflict when it arises.

CLP

SOMEONE IS COMING TO HELP

MATTHEW 14:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Life is “*full of trouble*” (Job 14.1)
2. When you reach the point of desperation, you need to know that someone is coming to help you.

I. THE FEELINGS OF THE APOSTLES

- A. The apostles felt distant.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.22:** Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and sent them to the other side.
 2. **MATTHEW 14.22:** Jesus then went to be alone.
 3. **MATTHEW 14.23:** “*But the boat was in the middle of the sea.*” This was about three to four miles. (John 6.19)
 4. Do you find yourself distant and alone? (Ps. 13.1)
- B. The apostles felt desperate.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.24:** “*tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.*” (cf. Mark 6.48)
 2. Have problems left you feeling desperate? (Ps. 40.12)
- C. The apostles felt darkness.
 1. **MATTHEW 14.25:** “*Now in the fourth hour of the night.*”
 2. **JOHN 6.17:** “*And it was already dark.*”
 3. What has been the darkest hours of your life? (Ps. 42.5)

II. JESUS IS COMING TO HELP YOU

- A. Jesus comes when you need Him the most.
 1. Jesus did not come to the disciples until they were in the middle of the sea. (Matt. 14.23)
 2. Jesus always comes to our aid when we need him the most. (Heb. 2.17,18)
- B. Jesus comes in a way we do not expect.
 1. The disciples did not expect to see Jesus approaching them by walking on water. (Matt. 14.25)
 2. Jesus helps us in times of great distress through the avenue of providence. (Heb. 1.14; 1 Pet. 3.22)
- C. When Jesus comes to our rescue, we can be at peace.
 1. After Jesus arrived and got into the boat, “*the wind ceased.*” (Matt. 14.32).
 2. Prior to this, there was no peace. (Matt. 14.26,27)
 3. Turning to God in times of trouble will bring us peace. (Heb. 13.20,21).

CONCLUSION: When you don't know what to do, you can know that Jesus is coming to help.

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

It's called a life calendar. It consists of a series of boxes in a grid that is fifty-two wide and ninety long. Each box represents a week of your life. Each row of fifty-two boxes represents one year. And with ninety rows, it measures a life span of ninety years.

You begin by finding where you are currently in your life and begin with that box. At the end of the week, you mark the box, and it gives you some perspective of how much life you have left if you live to ninety. The purpose of such a calendar is to motivate you to not waste time but live every day to the fullest.

I have something similar on my desktop. If I live to be ninety years old, that means that I have 10,991 day left of my life as of the time of this writing. It is a simple reminder to me that I have a limited time on this earth, and I need to use that time wisely.

We have a limited time on this earth, and we need to use that time wisely. In Psalm 90, we are told that “*the days of our lives are seventy years; and if reason of strength they are eighty years*” (Ps. 90.10). He then draws this conclusion: “*So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom*” (Ps. 90.12). Thinking about much time we have on this earth will give us wisdom.

The Holy Spirit tells us to “*walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise*” (Eph. 5.15). Those who walk in wisdom live by giving careful attention to what they do. He then elaborates by saying, “*redeeming the time, because the days are evil*” (Eph. 5.16). Literally, we are to be careful how we live our lives by spending our time wisely. He then concludes by saying, “*Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5.17). If you put those things together, the inspired writer is telling us that those who are wise are those who use their time wisely by being careful to live each moment of their lives according to the teachings of scripture.

How many hours each day have we spent in front of the television or scrolling through Facebook or Instagram? The average person spends three to six hours every day doing those or similar activities. Think about how much you could get done if you put those hours into more productive ways. How much could you learn from the Bible? How much could have spent talking to God in prayer? How much better could your relationships be if you spent that time with them?

Hezekiah learned that he was about to die. He begged God for his life. Through the prophet Isaiah, God told Hezekiah, “*Surely, I will add to your days fifteen years*” (Isa. 38.5). If you had fifteen years left in your life, what would you do with that time? We don't know how much time we have left. But we know that our days are few (James 4.14). So let's use those days wisely. CLP