

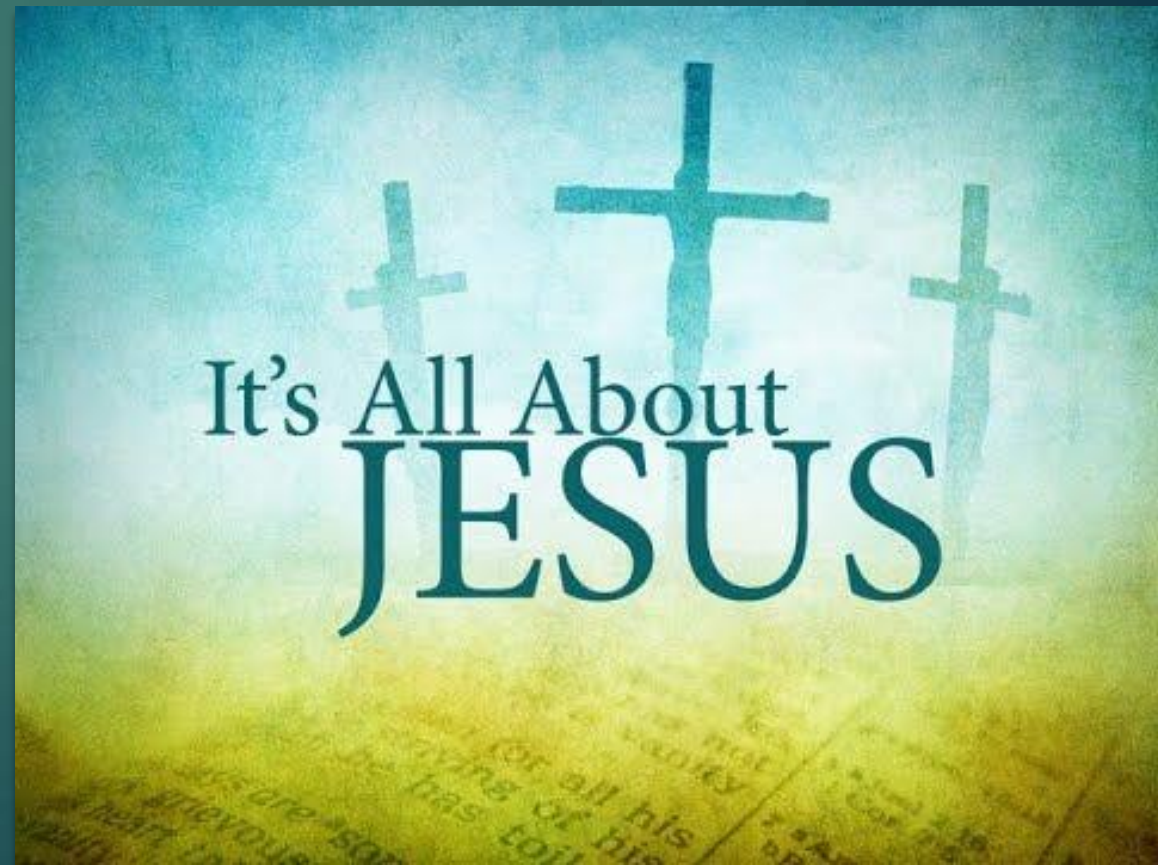


Rejoice in our Toil

COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

1. Jesus is the **image** of the invisible God
2. He is the **firstborn** of all creation
3. He has **created** all things
4. He is before all things / He is the **beginning**
5. In Him all things **hold together**

Who is Jesus
Our Lord?



Jesus Our Lord

6. Jesus is the **Head** of the church
7. He is the **Firstborn** from the dead
8. Jesus has **preeminence** over all things
9. The **fullness** of God is in Christ
10. He **reconciled** all things to Himself



Rejoicing through **Suffering** (v.24)

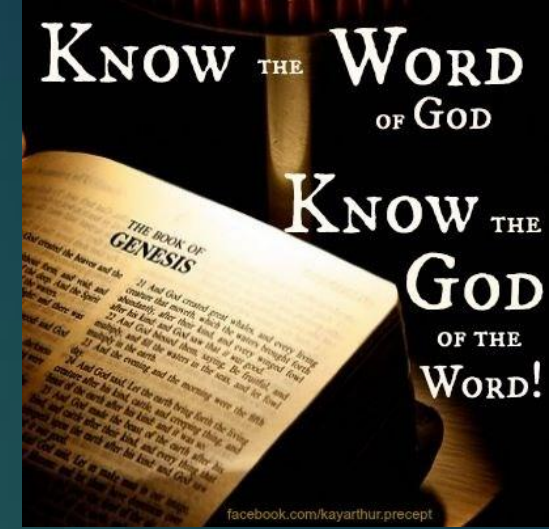
We can
rejoice in
our
suffering...

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- ▶ “filling up” Paul recognized that his suffering was serving a **purpose** for the sake of God’s kingdom.
- ▶ (2 Cor. 1:5-8; 4:8-12) suffering for the good of **others**
- ▶ When we focus on the needs of others, we will put **less significance** in our own sufferings.
- ▶ To believe there is meaning behind our suffering & toil will give us **hope**, but that is far from rejoicing. There is more to be learned from Paul in here.

Rejoicing through **Serving** (v.25)

- ▶ Stewardship—Paul felt responsible for their understanding in the word of God (v.25).
- ▶ **Fully known** is what we need to strive for. As a minister that was what Paul was striving to achieve (a never-ending project).
- ▶ There is joy in **knowing** the word of God—in reading and appreciating the promises of God, the natures of God, and His word of comfort.



Rejoicing through **Knowledge** (v.26-27)

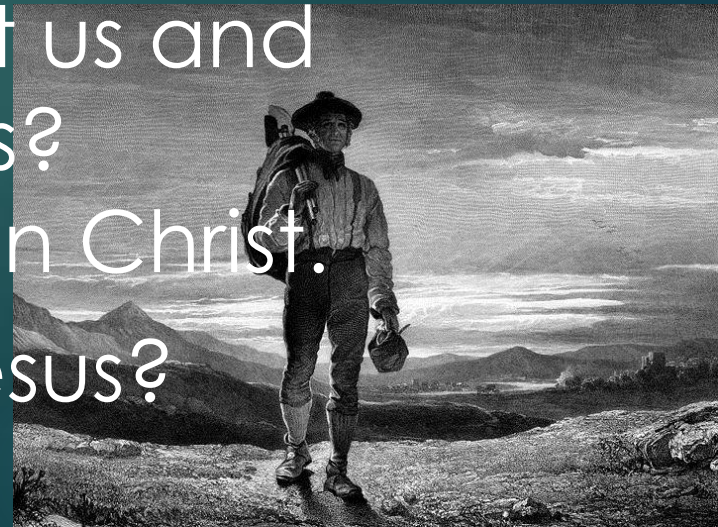
- ▶ Two main parts of this **mystery** Paul was teaching:
- ▶ First, the Gentiles are a part of this **new body** of Christ (Eph. 3:3-7).
- ▶ Second, what makes the church different than all the believers in the ages past is that the Holy Spirit now dwells **in** us the church, He is not just **with** us (John 14:16-17; Col. 1:27).
- ▶ We can rejoice in **knowing** who we are in Christ.

Rejoicing through **Growth** (v.28)

- ▶ The goal is to see others **mature** before the Lord.
- ▶ Sometimes we need to **warn**, other times we need to **teach** (1 Thes. 5:14).
- ▶ In either case we need **God's wisdom** to bring others to maturity (never in our own power).
- ▶ He rejoiced in seeing others **growing** in the Lord.
Do you have the same opportunity to rejoice?
How is your own growth in God's word?

Rejoicing through our **Daily Toil** (v.29)

- ▶ There is no half measure in ministry (Phil 2:16; 2 Tim. 2:10). We rely on God as we struggle.
- ▶ “Suffering” actually means moving forward (Phil. 1:27). There should be a **direction** in our toil.
- ▶ (Eph. 3:20) It is Christ who works through us and **within** us. Are we willing to be His vessels? (2 Cor. 12:9-10). There is joy in our work in Christ.
- ▶ Have you **experienced** this power of Jesus?



Conclusion

- ▶ Rejoicing through **suffering**
- ▶ Rejoicing through **servicing**
- ▶ Rejoicing through **knowledge**
- ▶ Rejoicing through **growth**
- ▶ Rejoicing through our **daily toil**
- ▶ As you may notice: none of these are of the external. You can **choose** to rejoice today.

