

## Day 7 Colossians 1:24 -29

Social media has given us a platform and perspective for social justice and social change. But at the same time, it has given us the ability to “like” something from afar.

In our culture and in our churches, it is easy to say the right thing without reaching to find perspective and apply truth to ourselves. It's easy to voice opinions, but it is more difficult to walk what we talk.

It is fortunate for us, that the apostles, like Jesus, were fully committed to reach deep and walk their talk.

These people were living testimonies to the gospel they preached, to the extent of putting their very lives in peril. It wasn't because they had strong opinions about the teachings of Christ, it was because they were fully convinced of the power of the gospel.

We notice this in this part of Paul's letter as he gives us insight into his own personal sufferings.

If Paul, as it is assumed, was in prison while writing Colossians, then we have to assume he was experiencing dire circumstances. Paul was not giving instructions from the sidelines; he was fully immersed in the reality of suffering. Yet he was convinced that truth would win the day.

Though he takes time to tell us of his suffering, he doesn't want us to focus on it. He instead wants us to focus on the suffering of Christ for the sake of the church.

He is pointing to us to salvation because He knows it is sustaining Him. He gives us the hope that cannot be held back by prison walls. Salvation. Paul is relying on the truth of it more than he is relying on his doubt.

And again, he builds upon this message. We have assurance that we have inherited the glorious riches of the long-awaited gospel - that treasure- “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Hope in this context does not mean just wishing or wanting something to happen. It is more substantial.

The context of the word hope here means confident expectation. It denotes a confident wait, a sure anticipation. In this context hope is a source, not a wish. It is Christ.

How do we practice that anticipation in our lives? How do we know that regardless of things not being ok, that they will be alright. How do we live this truth as life crashes around us?

Like Paul there will be times in our lives when we don't see how we can make it through a circumstance. But Paul gives us the assurance that Christ is in us regardless.

And if we are gutted by grief, or prison, or illness, or depression, that hope will still be within us. Even if we are questioning our very faith. Christ in us will never leave us. The hope of glory will not be moved, even by our doubt.

Paul longed to see a church that was mature in how it viewed the gospel. The hope of glory is the source of God's power in us. In Christ we are able to walk HIS talk.

God will see to it. It will be done.