

**The Supremacy of Christ
Suffering for the Gospel
Colossians 1:24-2:1**

Introduction

Today we will finish the first chapter of Colossians. Colossians is one of the letters written by the Apostle Paul to the first-century churches. Paul writes this letter to the Christians in Colossae, a small town in south-western Turkey.

1. Paul writes this letter to deepen the understanding of who Jesus is (1:15-20) and what He has accomplished through His death on the _____ (2:10-15).
2. Amid his teaching on the gospel and the preeminence of Jesus, Paul also mentions _____ for the gospel.
3. Paul wants us to know that even when we suffer for the gospel's sake, we can be _____ in our suffering.
4. Many of the churches were _____ about Paul's sufferings and imprisonment, and some were losing heart
5. Paul acknowledges the suffering, but he calls it _____ suffering.

I. Understand Where History Is Headed

6. To triumphantly suffer for the gospel, you must have an understanding of where _____ is headed.
7. We need to know this to have meaning and purpose for our lives and hope for the _____. Understanding history provides the foundation that motivates us to sacrifice for the present _____.
8. The Apostle Paul believes the utopia of humanity is not Communism but _____!
9. Biblical history dominates Paul's mind and burns in his heart. He knows where history is headed, and he knows what specific _____ of history he is living.

10. World history is headed toward the Kingdom of Christ, and human history is headed for the _____ of Christ.
11. During the Old Testament period, God worked through the nation of _____ to advance His plan.
12. The prophets gave specific predictions about the _____ that would enable them to recognize Him when He came.
13. What the Old Testament did not clearly reveal was the next stage of God's plan following the ascension of Christ. It is what Paul calls "the _____."
14. Jesus calls believers from all over the world "His Body, and The _____" with a mission to spread the good news to all people.
15. This foundation strengthened Paul during his sufferings and motivated him to _____ the sacrifice.
16. Cynicism and apathy erode any opportunity for a person to support a cause greater than _____ and suppress any reason to willingly embrace suffering and sacrifice.
17. One thing you can do is familiarize yourself with the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and look back at the historical examples of _____.
18. You can let the Holy Spirit connect you to _____ so you can discover how awesome He is and what a privilege it is to know Him.

II. Understand Your Unique Role in God's Plan

19. To triumphantly suffer for the gospel, you must also have an understanding of where you fit in God's _____.
20. As Christians, we must realize that our relationship with Jesus is more important than all the temporal comforts and happiness of this _____.
21. The goal of life is not to gain pleasure or avoid pain but to seek out and understand your life's meaning and _____.

22. A person will not voluntarily suffer unless that suffering has _____.
23. After the Resurrection, the disciples were convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and from that point on, they were willing to give their lives for the _____.
24. When you discover your eternal link to the creator, you become the enemy of the _____.
25. Paul suffered not only because he understood God's plan but also because he knew God had given him a unique _____ in His plan (read 1:25,28,29a).
26. Our sufferings are worthwhile because they advance God's plan to _____ other people!

III. Understand You Have Access to God's Power

27. Paul suffers for his service to help others _____ in Christ.
28. God's _____ gives Paul the ability to remain steadfast in all his sufferings.
29. Accessing the power of God starts with accepting Christ to be your _____.
30. The Holy Spirit indwells you the moment you _____ in the gospel.
31. When you live the Christian life in your own strength, the sufferings you experience for Christ can be _____.
32. You can call out to Jesus in faith and ask Him to _____ you with His Holy Spirit.
33. The Holy Spirit is _____ who empowers you to accomplish His purpose, to draw people to faith in Jesus, and to help them to mature in Jesus.
34. When God's Spirit indwells you, you are aligned with God's _____, and all you need to do is simply ask God for the power of His Spirit in each situation.

Conclusion

35. The goal of Paul's ministry was to bring people to _____ in Christ, and not to dependence upon others.
36. It is the Lordship of Christ that perfects the whole church and _____ every issue we face; even those that include suffering.
37. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ is the work of _____ believer.

Paul says our work for Christ is empowered by God's mighty strength even though it requires great effort on our part. Don't retreat from the opposition to the gospel message. Let God arrest your attention and strengthen your witness even if that means you may face suffering or persecution for Christ's sake. Remember the goal is for us to help each other grow in Christ and when called upon to suffer; suffer triumphantly for the glory of God!

ANSWERS:

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|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Cross | 23. Gospel |
| 2. Suffering | 24. devil |
| 3. Victorious | 25. role |
| 4. Distressed | 26. redeem |
| 5. Triumphant | 27. grow |
| 6. History | 28. power |
| 7. Future | 29. Savior |
| 8. Christ | 30. Believe |
| 9. Stage | 31. Crushing |
| 10. Rulership | 32. Empower |
| 11. Israel | 33. God |
| 12. Messiah | 34. Purpose |
| 13. Mystery | 35. Maturity |
| 14. Church | 36. Resolves |
| 15. Endure | 37. Every |
| 16. Themselves | |
| 17. Faith | |
| 18. Jesus | |
| 19. Plan | |
| 20. Life | |
| 21. Purpose | |
| 22. Meaning | |