

We will be knit together in love.

We gain true riches.

We are filled with wisdom and knowledge.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;.... Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; Proverbs 2:6 (ESV)

Watch out for persuasive sounding arguments that can lead us away from Jesus.

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. Why do people who share the gospel end up suffering for the gospel?
2. Why do Christians rejoice in their suffering? What is some of the good God does in us when we suffer?
3. What is the mystery of Christ? Explain what makes it amazing.
4. Since we are servants of such an amazing mystery from an amazing God, how should we share the message of Jesus in our life? How much energy should we put into sharing about Jesus?
5. Why does proclaiming Jesus involve both warning and teaching?
6. Paul said that in Christ are hidden all wisdom and knowledge. Give examples of how Christ has given you knowledge and wisdom for life you didn't have before knowing him.
7. What is some of the persuasive speech heard in today's society that threatens to lead young people away from Jesus?



Colossians 1:24-2:5 - What is the most powerful force in the world?

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1. Why does the good news of Jesus always appear to be losing ground?

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, 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, Colossians 1:24–25 (ESV)

God spreads the gospel through the suffering of the servants of the gospel.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, Colossians 1:21–22 (ESV)

Just as Jesus suffered to defeat sin and create the gospel message, his servants will suffer to defeat sin by the spreading of the gospel message.

And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Acts 9:4–5 (ESV)

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” Acts 9:15–16 (ESV)

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. Acts 5:41 (ESV)

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, Philippians 1:29 (ESV)

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

2. Why does the gospel appear to be a new thing, not an ancient thing?

the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 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. Colossians 1:26–27 (ESV)

A mystery is something that was always part of God’s plan in the Old Testament, but we didn’t know it until he revealed it to us in the New Testament.

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel 2:19 (ESV)

3. How should we treat the gospel message?

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. Colossians 1:28–29 (ESV)

We proclaim Him.

We warn everyone about life without Him.

We teach everyone to mature them in Christ.

We work hard at telling others about Jesus.

4. What are the results of maturing in Christ?

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Colossians 2:1–5 (ESV)

Our hearts will be encouraged by Christ.