

Compare to Eph 3:1-13

### Study of Colossians – Colossians 1:24 – 2:5 Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013

#### I. A Ministry of Suffering (24)

##### Paul's Imprisonment

-Col 4:3,10,18

#### II. A Ministry of Preaching (25-29)

##### Stewardship

οἰκονομία - oikonomia

-A task, a job, implying need for administration

-God equipped Paul for his special task

-Eph 3:1-7

##### Apostle to the Gentiles

-Acts 9:15; 26:13-18

-Rom. 11:13; 15:15-16

-Gal 2:7

-1 Tim. 2:7

##### Hope of Glory

-Col 3:4

-Eph 5:1-5

#### III. A Ministry of Intercession (1-5)

##### Laodicea

-11 miles from Colosae

-Col 4:13,15,16

-Rev 3:14

Picks up from v.23 - regarding the Gospel, Paul says "of which I...became a minister."

<sup>[1]</sup> **Now** I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am <sup>[2]</sup> filling up what is lacking in <sup>[3]</sup> Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,

<sup>25</sup> 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,

Word of God -> Mystery -> Christ

<sup>26</sup> the **mystery** hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his *saints*. This "mystery" is the only "special knowledge" the Colossians needed

<sup>27</sup> **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*.

*Gentiles* -> Gen 12:3; Isa 49:6; Gal 3:8; Eph 3:6

<sup>28</sup> **Him** we *proclaim, warning everyone* and *teaching everyone with all wisdom*, that we may present everyone *mature in Christ*. **Proclaim: καταγγέλλω** (katangellō) Public Proclamation with Conviction

Eph 4:13

Proclamation with Conviction

Paul's Task

<sup>29</sup> For **this I toil**, struggling with **all his energy** that he powerfully works within me.

<sup>1</sup> **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*,

<sup>2</sup> 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**,

<sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and **knowledge**.

<sup>4</sup> I say this **in order that no one may delude you** with **plausible arguments**.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

#### 3 Things About Paul's Suffering:

##### 1. He Rejoices

-Act 5:41

-Rom 5:1-5

-Jam 1:2-12

##### 2. It is for Their Sake

-Act 21:20-36

##### 3. Filling Up...Christ's Afflictions

What does this mean?

-Rom 8:16-17

-2Co 1:5

-Phi 3:10

#### Mystery (mystērion)

As used in the NT does not mean "enigma," but refers to God's plan of salvation, which was formerly kept secret but is now revealed in Christ.

-Ro 16:25

-1Co 4:1

-Eph 1:9; 3:3-9;

5:32; 6:19

-Col 1:26; 2:2

**Saints** = Believers

(Not Dead Christians)

\*Rom 1:7, I Cor 1:2,

II Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1,

Col 1:2

#### Struggle

-Probably refers to prayer

-He prays for:

(1) Encouragement

(2) Unity in love

(3) Knowledge and Understanding of Christ

The ONLY way to avoid false doctrine is to have a true knowledge of Christ and His Word!

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**Compare To**

**Ephesians 3:1–13 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. <sup>13</sup> So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

**Paul’s Imprisonment**

**Colossians 4:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

**Colossians 4:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),

**Colossians 4:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

**He Rejoiced**

**Acts 5:41 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

**Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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**James 1:1–12 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**For Their Sake**

**Acts 21:20–36 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, <sup>21</sup> and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. <sup>22</sup> What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. <sup>23</sup> Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; <sup>24</sup> take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. <sup>25</sup> But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.” <sup>26</sup> Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

<sup>27</sup> When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, <sup>28</sup> crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place.

Moreover, ***he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.***” <sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple. <sup>30</sup> Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.

<sup>31</sup> And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. <sup>32</sup> He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. <sup>33</sup> Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he

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was and what he had done. <sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks. <sup>35</sup> And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, <sup>36</sup> for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away with him!”

### Filling Up...Christ's Affliction

#### **Romans 8:16–17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

#### **2 Corinthians 1:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

#### **Philippians 3:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

### Stewardship of God's Grace

**3873** οἰκονομία (*oikonomia*), ἀς (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 3622; TDNT 5.151—**1**. LN 42.25 **task**, a job, implying need for administration (1Co 9:17); **2**. LN 30.68 **plan**, involving a set of arrangements (1Ti 1:4); **3**. LN 46.1 **manage a household**, administration of a household (Lk 16:2–4)<sup>1</sup>

**3622**. οἰκονομία *oikonomia*; from 3621; *stewardship, administration*:—administration(3), management(3), stewardship(3).<sup>2</sup>

### Mystery

In Paul's writings, the word *mystērion* refers to God's plan of salvation, which was formerly kept secret but is now revealed in Christ. This plan includes the unification of Jews and Gentiles into one new people of God.<sup>3</sup>

**3696** μυστήριον (*mystērion*), ου (*ou*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ DBLArAm 10661; Str 3466; TDNT 4.802—LN 28.77 **a secret**, a mystery (Mk 4:11; Ro 11:25; 16:25; 1Co 2:1; 4:1; 13:2; 14:2; 15:51; Eph 1:9; 6:19; Col 1:26; 2:2; 2Th 2:7; 1Ti 3:9; Rev 17:5)<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Eph 1:9). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

<sup>4</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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**3466.** μυστήριον *mustērion*; from μύστης *mustēs* (*one initiated*); from 3453; *a mystery or secret doctrine*:—mysteries(5), mystery(22).<sup>5</sup>

**Romans 16:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

**1 Corinthians 4:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

**Ephesians 1:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

**Ephesians 3:3–9 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

**Ephesians 5:32 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

**Ephesians 6:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

**Colossians 1:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

**Colossians 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> 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,

**Apostle to the Gentiles**

**Acts 9:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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**Acts 26:13–18 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. <sup>14</sup> And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ <sup>15</sup> And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup> But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, <sup>17</sup> delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

**Romans 11:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry

**Romans 15:15–16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 2:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised

**1 Timothy 2:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**Saints**

**Romans 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

**2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

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**Colossians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

**Hope of Glory**

**Colossians 3:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Proclaim**

**2859** καταγγέλλω (*katangellō*): vb.; ≡ Str 2605; TDNT 1.70—LN 33.204 **proclaim throughout**, report, tell with conviction, *i.e.*, preach and advocate (Ac 4:2; 16:17, 21; 17:3; Ro 1:8; 1Co 2:1; 9:14; 11:26; Php 1:17; Col 1:28) / καταγεινώσκω (*katageinōskō*): vb.; ≡ Str 2607—(1Jn 3:21 v.r. G); see 2861<sup>6</sup>

**Mature**

**Ephesians 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

**Laodicea**

**Colossians 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

**Colossians 4:15-16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. <sup>16</sup> And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

**Revelation 3:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.

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<sup>6</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.