

Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: Christ First

Week 2: Worth It!

One of the questions Paul addresses in this short letter is the Colossians' concern about why he is suffering: "Why, Paul, if you really are God's messenger ..." they wondered, "...Why are you in prison? & doesn't that discourage you?"

Colossians 1:24–29 of chapter 1 is Paul's answer to that question.

Colossians 1:24a. JOYFUL SACRIFICE IS GIVING UP SOMETHING YOU LOVE FOR SOMETHING YOU LOVE EVEN MORE. To be a Christ-follower means you expect personal sacrifice, not personal comfort, & you rejoice in it because of what you see being produced through it.

Colossians 1:24b. The work of salvation is complete—Jesus has done everything necessary to save us. But the saving act is not complete until we hear about it & respond.

Suffering is the means by which God has ordained bringing salvation to the world. We want it to be through prosperity and blessing.

Is that a price you are willing to pay?

What did it cost you to receive the free gift of salvation?

Colossians 1:25

"Commission:" individual assignment. In Scripture, if you *don't* use it for the purposes God gave it to you for, God considers it stealing. **Romans 1:14**

MICHA 6:8 What am I going to be held accountable for?

(1) "TO ACT JUSTLY." In the Bible, to be "just" means using what you have for the reasons God gave it.

Lostness in the world requires something of us.

(2) "TO LOVE MERCY:" Because I'm the recipient of great mercy!

(3) "TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD": simply listening to God & obeying him.

Colossians 1:26. Christ is what history has been about. All our unanswered questions & cravings for justice find their fulfillment in Him.

Colossians 1:27. Not only that Christ Himself is the mystery, but that *you* are the mystery. Our lives should scream, "Worth it—but only because of Jesus!"

Colossians 1:28-29: The warning is, if you're not putting Jesus in the 1st place, you are destroying your own faith & the faith of your children.

1. Do you show in your life the marks of sacrifice?

2. Are you fulfilling your commission?

Don't you want to get to eternity & be able to look back with Paul on a life of sacrifice & say "worth it!"