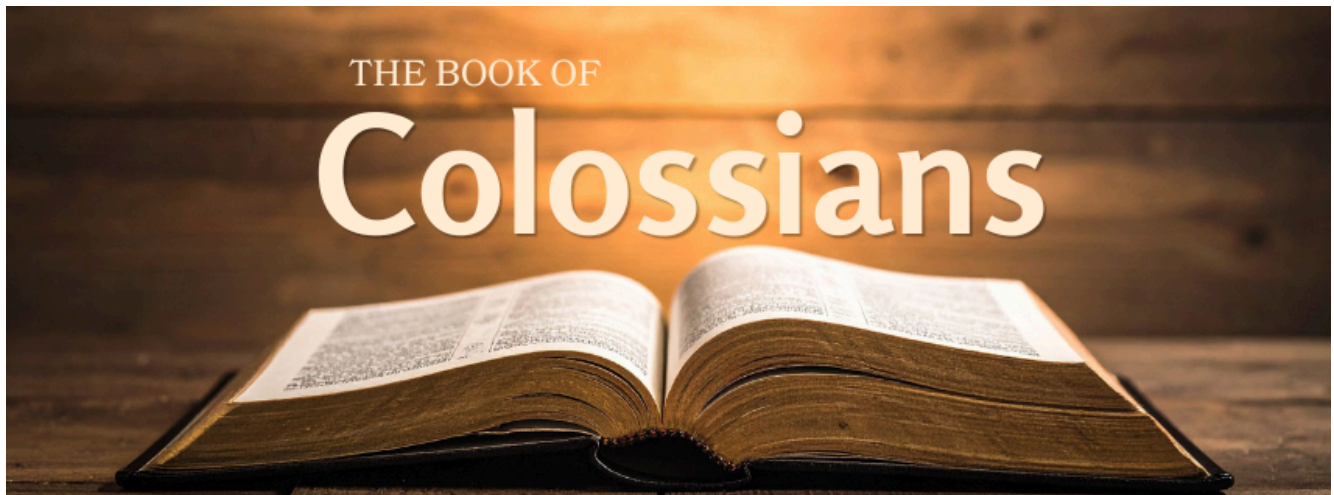


September 13, 2026

Ministry That's Worth It

Pastor Brian Greenleaf



Colossians 1:24-29

Big Idea: Biblical ministry means proclaiming Christ, the mystery of “Christ in you”, by enduring suffering and working hard in His divine power to bring believers to maturity.

Rejoice in suffering (24)

Serve Christ in the church (25a)

Share the word of God completely (25b)

Display the riches of God’s glory (26-27)

Labor in God’s power to see all believers come to maturity in Christ (28-29)

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Sermon Talks

1. Read Colossians 1:24-29 as you prepare to work through the sermon talks.
2. How is it possible to find joy in the middle of suffering for others? Have you ever experienced this?
3. What do you think Paul means when he says, "I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions (verse 25)?"
4. How does viewing ministry as a willingness to sacrifice or suffer challenge our modern ideas of comfort?
5. In verse 25, Paul challenges his readers to minister the word of God well. This is not reserved just for pastors or church leaders. How can all who have put their faith in Jesus, minister the word of God?
6. Do you feel you are doing your best for the Lord each day? How can you improve in this area?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 1:31, Colossians 3:17, and Colossians 3:23. What do these verses say about our attitude in being the Lord's hands and feet?
8. The Greek meaning of the word "mystery" is different in these verses from the English meaning (verses 26 and 27). What is the difference?
9. In verse 27, Paul defines the mystery as "Christ in you, the hope of glory." What does it mean to you personally that the living Christ dwells inside you? How should this truth change the way we view our daily struggles, identity, and future?
10. How would you define spiritual maturity based on this passage (verse 28) and your walk with God? How can we aid in the effort to present everyone "mature in Christ?"
11. Verse 29 shows a beautiful balance between human effort ("I strenuously contend") and divine power ("with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me"). How do we practically rely on God's strength rather than burning out on our own willpower?
12. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in a time of prayer. Begin by praising God for who He is and what He has done in your life. Praise Him for your salvation.