

# SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:24-2:2

Death to that Which Is Lesser - Life to that Which Is Greater

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## **MISSIONS IN PAUL'S LIFE**

*Paul Rejoiced in His Suffering as a Missionary (1:24)*

*Paul Rejoiced in His Suffering for the Sake of the Church (1:24)*

*Paul Rejoiced in His Suffering According to the Example of Jesus (1:24)*

*Paul Rejoiced in His Suffering Because it Was According to God's Commissioning (1:25)*

*Paul Rejoiced in His Suffering Because it Was to "Make the Word of God Fully Known" (1:26-2:2)*

1. *A long-hidden "mystery," a "mystery hidden for ages and generation" (1:26).*
2. *To the Gentiles (1:27).*
3. *The riches of the glory (1:27).*
4. *Christ in you, the hope of glory (1:27).*
5. *Warning everyone (1:28).*
6. *Teaching everyone (1:28).*
7. *With the aim of presenting everyone mature in Christ (1:28).*

*Paul's Rejoiced in His Suffering Because it Was Done in God's Power (1:29-2:1)*

## **MISSIONS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH TODAY**

*God Commands Missions*

*Missions Is Hard*

*We'll Never Do the Hard Work of Missions if We Aren't Convinced that it Is Greater*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big ideas of this sermon are that God commands missions, missions is hard, and we'll never do the hard work of missions if we aren't convinced that it is greater. The main takeaway is that we'd work hard to learn, love, and live the greater, no matter the cost (that we'd read our Bibles, pray for the Spirit's transforming power, and spur one another on in missions).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of missions?
3. What has been your experience with missions to this point?
4. Can you think of a specific way in which the lesser has given way to the greater in your life?
5. What is the hardest thing about missions for you? What is the best thing about missions?
6. What are the top three lesser things that are keeping from rejoicing in the greater thing of missions?
7. Which of the six observations on missions in Paul's life stands out to you the most? Which is the greatest source of joy for you?
8. Which aspect of the message of the missionary stands out to you the most? Which is most encouraging for you to share?
9. Can you name a specific time in which it was obvious to you that you were working in God's strength?
10. What is one thing you know you should do today to honor God more in missions?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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12. Take part in all that missions week has to offer this year.
13. Talk to someone on the missions team about how you can participate more in missions through Grace Church.
14. Reach out to one of our missionaries and ask them to share one way you can pray for them and practically support them.
15. Give generously toward the special offering for the Smiths.
16. Prayerfully read your Bible, asking the Spirit to help you see the place missions ought to have in your head, heart, life, and church.
17. Identify three lesser things in your life. Replace them with three greater things. Share both with someone in your DG.
18. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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20. Adoration. Praise God that He is the greatest of all. Praise God that He is joy. Praise God that He is personal and kind. Praise God that He is omniscient and omnipotent. Praise God for His glory, mercy, and grace. Praise God for being unchangeable in His being. Praise God that He is perfectly unified and satisfied in His Triune nature.
21. Confession. Confess any fear, apathy, selfishness, idolatry, lack of love, laziness, independence, or anything else that is keeping you from engaging in missions as you ought. Confess any unwillingness to suffer for God's purposes. Confess any ways in which you have greater joy in the lesser. Confess any ways you are ashamed of the gospel. Confess any ways you have been trying to obey in your own strength. Confess discouragement that stems from a lack of faith.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God that someone rejoiced in the suffering caused by bringing you the gospel. Thank God for the chance to fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. Thank God for giving you the commission to take the gospel to the world. Thank God for the riches of His glory in Christ. Thank God for Christ in you.
23. Supplication. Ask God to help you mature and be a means of others maturing in Jesus. Ask God to fill our church with courage and a love for the greater. Ask God to make us an increasing blessing to our missionaries and the nations.