

**In Christ Alone  
Complete in Christ  
Colossians 1:24-29**

3 ways to pursue Christ-like maturity

**I. Expect the message of Christ alone to spread through suffering (v24-25)**

**Colossians 1:24-25** - *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God...*

A. Understand the reason for suffering

**2 Corinthians 1:5-6** - *For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer...*

**2 Corinthians 4:10-12** - *...always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you.*

B. Rejoice in the outcome of suffering

**II. Focus on the message of Christ alone as the only message of hope to this world (v26-27)**

**Colossians 1:26-27** - *...that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

A. Appreciate God revealing Himself to us

B. Value the diversity and exclusivity of the Gospel

**Romans 16:25-27** - *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.*

C. Recognize the significance of the hope of glory

**Romans 8:18** - *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

**III. Labor to proclaim Christ alone (v28-29)**

**Colossians 1:28-29** - *We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*

A. Admonishing and teaching with wisdom

B. Striving according to His power