Christ|God Visible #5 Pastor Rick Baker

October 9 2022

The Profoundest Thanksgiving

***Christ in YOU; the Hope of Glory***

Col. 1:24-2:5

*Three amazing realities to fire up thanksgiving in you...*

1. The **profound gain to the pain** of pushing back darkness (1:24,29; 2:1).

Let’s break down the rich reality of rejoicing in this kind of suffering...

*In what?* Suffering persecution and pain for intentionally ministering to people

*Why?* The dark hold evil has on fallen humanity

*For whom?* For the sake of the salvation mission of the church and the filling up of afflictions you must yet endure (deny self, carry cross) as you continue to face the same afflictions Christ encountered (Christ’s afflictions—both then and through His identification with us now)

The verse is best understood this way...

*Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, AND I fill up what is lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions in my flesh, for the sake of His body, which is the church.*

1. The **profound responsibility of being entrusted** as stewards of the Word of God (1:25,28; 2:2,4).

The stewardship/house management of God’s affairs in the world, namely, the guardianship of

God’s Word *in its fullness*...

*Calvary BC is called to be a fine spiritual dining experience in a sea of toxic junk.*

...to know the purpose of God in Christ

...to be a finishing school for souls

...to not be deceived by “fine-sounding arguments”

1. The **profound privilege in having the hidden mystery of God disclosed** to us (1:26-27; 2:2-3).

The Great Prize 🡪 *THE MYSTERY of God*

CHRIST!

* Being awakened (manifested, revealed) to the supremacy of Christ in whom is all God’s treasures of wisdom and knowledge—the true wisdom of faith in Jesus Christ for reconciliation with God.
* Being gifted with the indwelling Christ, and by that transaction, being a living advertisement of the hope of glory—a glorified bodily existence, freed of every encumbrance, forever!