

*Garry Allen Henecke DD / Men in Christ - January 2024*

*Colossians 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Col 1:24-28 ESV)*

*Phillips New Testament Colossians: 1:24-29 - I myself have been made a minister of this same Gospel, and though it is true at this moment that I am suffering (in prison) on behalf of you who have heard the Gospel, yet I am far from sorry about it. Indeed, I am glad, because it gives me an opportunity to complete in my own sufferings something of the untold pains for which Christ suffers on behalf of his body, the Church. For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose: that I might fully declare God's word - that sacred mystery which up to now has been hidden in every age and every generation, but which is now as clear as daylight to those who love God. They are those to whom God has planned to give a vision of the full wonder and splendor of his secret for the sons of men. And the mystery is simply this: Christ in you! Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man to completion in Christ.*

1. "all the fulness" exists - dwells - lives in him. (see John 1:4)
2. All the truth of God is now in Christ
3. This was not formerly known - not before Epiphany
4. Seeing our suffering as really being the Lord's
5. The goal of the ministry - of the gospel
6. Insight into the gospel
7. We are to see ourselves in (I Corinthians 4:1-2)