

Colossians 1:24-29 “Sufferings, Stewardship and Struggling”

PART I - These questions are based on the activities from this past Sunday's service.

1. As we moved back to passing around the elements for communion, was there anything that stood out to you? (don't just mention how hard it was to open the combined wafer and juice!!!)
2. Pastor Don took extra time to explain why we celebrate communion, was there anything that stood out for you in his explanation?
3. Why is it important for the next generation to see their church family celebrate communion?

The sword-keepers also did a scripture memorization presentation,

4. Is it important for believers to memorize Scripture? Why? Why do we struggle with it?
5. Are there ways we could be more intentional about memorizing Scripture? What are they? As a small group, why not do a Scripture memorization challenge? You can do it!!!

PART II - Colossians 1:24-29

6. The first word in 1: 24 is “now”. It's a connecting word that joins the previous section to what is coming up next. The theme from last week section was 'reconciliation', how does that connect to this week's theme?
7. On face value, the phrase “filling up what is lacking in Christ's affliction” seems to contradict what we read in 1:15-20. How could this be misunderstood? What did Paul have in mind when he used this phrase?
8. The context to the passage is Paul sufferings. He teaches the Colossians that God has a clear purpose for his suffering. This causes Paul to be able to rejoice (Colossians 2:1-4 might help better understand why Paul was willing to suffer). How is that possible? What are the key roles that joy has when we encounter suffering?
9. Between 1:25-29 there are four tasks that Paul endeavours to do.
'Make the word fully known'
'Him we proclaim, warning everyone, teaching everyone,'
'present everyone'
'For this I toil,'

How do these tasks connect to one another?

10. How do we try to accomplish these tasks at Emmanuel?
11. Paul talks about the “mystery hidden for ages”. What is the mystery?
12. 1:29 focuses on two connected themes.
-Paul toils (works hard) and struggles. **Human hard work or effort.**
-'all His energy that He powerfully works in me' **God's power**
How do these two components fit together?

13. There have been times when Christians have emphasized one component over the other. What's the danger when this happens? How do we avoid this from happening?