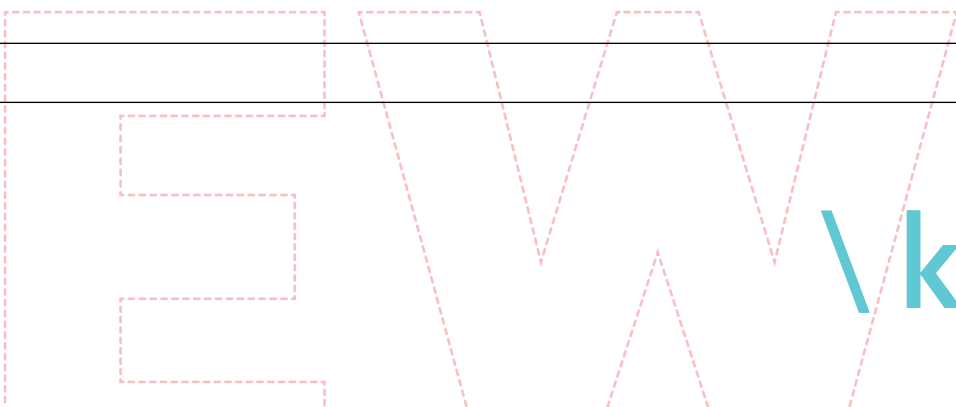


# CONTINUED GREATNESS

**1 CHRONICLES 29:1-5**

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# KAINOS MOMENT

Each week, set aside some time to reflect on this devotional as you prepare for your *Kainos* commitment.

## STEPPING OUT BOLDLY IN FAITH FOR GOD TO DO A NEW THING

As we continue on in this *Kainos* journey, let's take a look at Acts 4. To set the stage for any who aren't as familiar with this passage, Peter and John are before the Jewish council called the Sanhedrin. These religious leaders were disturbed that Peter had healed a man who could not walk — and he had healed the man in the name of Jesus.

These religious leaders brought Peter and John in for questioning. (Note: It's thought by many scholars that where they brought Peter and John was the same place where Jesus had been brought to jail prior to his crucifixion. If you have been on an Israel trip before, you might remember going deep underground into the jail cell where it is believed Jesus was kept and tortured prior to the day He was crucified. So Peter and John were brought into this SAME place and faced potentially the SAME fate as Jesus did.) They were asked, "In whose name did you perform this healing?"

Let's read Acts 4:8-13

*"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'*

*When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were common, ordinary men,*

*they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."*

Now the Sanhedrin ended up letting Peter and John go — because they could not dispute the fact that this man who could not walk had been healed. And there were crowds and crowds of people (five thousand to be exact) who were praising God for this amazing miracle. There was this groundswell of believers accumulating that they could not hold these men in jail any longer.

So Peter and John go back to the people and ask them to pray. There is significant opposition to the ministry of Jesus. They ask God to give them a **boldness** as they speak and as they live. They ask God that he would empower them and embolden them to push back the darkness through their words and actions.

The place where they were meeting shook and they all became filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

And then THIS happened...

*"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was given to anyone who had need"*

There is so much to unpack in this passage, but we'll focus in on this: Here's the thing that these early believers had — a mindset of eternity and not a mindset of earth.

The courage, the boldness of Peter and John and what they did before the Sanhedrin is incredible. And that type of bold faith and bold prayers afterwards is what ultimately welled up in such extravagant generosity towards the local church.

See, the Gospel was so RECENT to these early believers. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus had JUST happened.

A question to ponder: Do you ever feel far away from the Gospel? Do you ever feel like it is something that happened 2,000 years ago and isn't still happening today?

The spreading of the Gospel is urgent. The power of the Gospel is happening right now. Almost every single Sunday at our church, someone at one of our campuses or online (and many weeks it is a LOT of someones) are embracing the power of what Jesus

did for them and IS doing for them and they are choosing to surrender their lives to His Lordship and accept Him as their Savior. It's happening right now. Marriages are being healed, families are being restored, relationships are being reconciled. There is nothing "yester-year" about it. It is happening now!

And if that doesn't transform and renew our mindset into thinking about our stuff and our generosity in a new way, maybe it's time we got closer to the Gospel. Behold, God is doing a NEW thing – TODAY! Maybe it's time to get closer to the good news!

Reflect on your mindset. Do you have more of a mindset of earth or one of eternity? How might God be challenging you to think more recent about the Gospel in a way that impacts how you use your resources and your time more strategically for eternity?

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**KAINOS**

# THE GOSPEL'S GOAL

SUN, OCT 24, 2021 | COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:3

## MEMORY VERSE

*"God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

Colossians 1:27 CSB

**READ:** Colossians 1:24-2:3

## INTRO:

Don't you love a mystery? Whether in a novel, play or movie, figuring out the answer to the mystery is always a challenge. Paul writes that a mystery of the ages, "How is one properly related God?" is solved in the person and work of Jesus Christ. What the Old Testament prophets only foreshadowed, Christ revealed in His Person and work.

Geographically, God was not just interested in Israel, but the whole world (John 3:16). Theologically, salvation is not something we do through rituals and sacrifices, but is a free gift purchased by Christ on the cross (Ephesians 2:8-9).

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT:

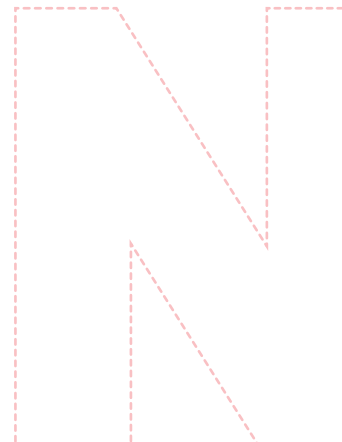
This letter to the Colossians was written to warn believers against a big heresy of this day – the heresy that conflicted with the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Heretics told believers they needed something more than their relationship with Jesus to bring them to a genuine spiritual experience.

The false teachers in Colossae, like the false teachers of our own day, would not deny the importance of Jesus Christ. They would acknowledge His prominence, but not preeminence. In their view, Jesus was one of many beings that came from God and through which men could reach God. It was this claim that Paul spoke against in this passage.

You must remember, however, that the Colossians received this letter from a man – Paul – whom they had never met. This man was in prison, and he was contradicting almost everything they were being taught by other teachers. They knew that Paul had been involved in leading Epaphras (their pastor) to faith in Christ. However, the false teachers in Colossae had been causing doubts in the people's minds and discrediting Paul.

Anticipating this situation, Paul spends some time in this passage writing about himself and explaining his ministry – sharing the gospel, suffering for these Colossians, and interceding for the believers.

Beginning in verse 25, Paul introduces the concept of stewardship, also translated "administration, trusteeship, and commission." The concept is that God has entrusted us with a mission and supplied us with time, talents, and financial resources (1:27). We can accomplish this mission because of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (1:27) and "His strength that works powerfully in me" (1:29).



# EXPLORE AND APPLY

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

### KEY POINTS, PART 1 – vs. 1:24-29

- Paul shares the gospel.
- Paul recalled for the Colossians their own spiritual experience, including alienation, reconciliation, and their hope in the gospel.

### vs. 1:24-29

1. How did God's calling motivate Paul to overcome suffering and challenges? (1:24)
2. What are the implications to one of being God's steward (administrator)? (1:25)
3. How does God "make known" the Good News today? (1:27-28)

### KEY POINTS, PART 2 – vs. 2:1-3

- Paul suffers for the Colossians.
- Paul rejoices and intercedes for the Colossians.
- Paul sees his ministry to the Colossians as a stewardship from God.
- When viewed through a biblical worldview, our misery can become our ministry.

### vs. 2:1-3

1. Rather than being discouraged by Paul's imprisonment, the Colossians were to be encouraged. What resources for encouragement does Paul list? (2:2-3)
2. How does understanding Christ's wisdom and knowledge motivate us to mission?

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# THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

## REVIVE MY HEART

Because of God's great love for us and His greatness as the One true God, He is worthy of our love. God deserves more than a casual, occasional, or half-hearted love, but our wholehearted devotion.

Spend some time reflecting on how He has shown His great love to you.

Jesus taught of all the commandments, the most important thing is to *"Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, with ALL your mind and with ALL your strength."* (Mark 12:30; emphasis added)

Ask the Lord to reveal to you the areas of your life where your heart is divided, where you are not seeking His kingdom and righteousness above all other things (Matthew 6:33). Does He have all of you or just part? Do you worship Him every day in every situation or just on Sunday mornings? Are you obeying His commands? Are you seeking to honor Him in your thoughts, words, and actions towards others? Are you holding onto something you know is sin? Now consider journaling to process what He reveals.

Praise God! He has promised, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9)

Spend time confessing your sins and return wholeheartedly to the Lord in these areas of your life.

Rejoice that in Christ you are a NEW creation, *"the old has passed away; behold, the NEW has come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17; emphasis added)

