

Connect

Does prayer influence things? What would it not change? (1 John 5:14, Malachi 3:6)

Verses - Colossians 1:24-29 (NKJV)

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Study

Please quickly review Colossians 1:15-23, then read v.24.

1. In what sense could anything be lacking in the afflictions of Christ? (v.24)

   Please discuss this question briefly and then come back and discuss Q1 again after discussing questions a - f below:

   a. ***What work*** did Jesus begin which required Paul (and others) to suffer in order to complete it? Is this work finished yet? (Mt 28:16-20)
   b. ***Did Jesus know*** that his work would cause Christians to suffer? (Jn 16:33)
   c. Why did Paul ***rejoice*** that he could suffer in this way? (1Th 3:6,7)
   d. What was ***Paul's work?*** (Rm 1:1,5)
   e. Against ***what enemy*** did Jesus and Paul struggle? (Ep 6:12)
   f. Do ***we*** still struggle against this enemy? (1 Jn 1:8, 3:8; 1Pt 5:8)

SHARE: It has been said, "If you never "bump" into the devil, it's because you're going in the same direction." Please share your experiences, if you are comfortable to do so.

2. In what ways do you continue the work begun by Jesus and Paul, and in what ways do you suffer because of this work? Do you rejoice in this suffering? (If you are ***not*** suffering, why not? Should you work differently?)

Magnify

Based on today's lesson, share and/or in prayer:

- ❖ What might you be able to confess?
- ❖ What can you praise God about who He is?
- ❖ What can you thank Him for?
- ❖ How can you serve him better?