

GENESIS

begin. belong. believe.

'the Mystery'

([part III of 'Colossians' – 7/22/12](#))

Big idea

1. **Jesus is worth suffering for** – we should not be surprised when we suffer because of serving Jesus, but we should see this as an opportunity to make much of Him, inspire others to do the same, and grow closer to Jesus as a result of our suffering in service to Him.
2. **Jesus is the mystery of God revealed, the hope of glory** – the gospel is not just a starting point with Jesus, the gospel is what sustains that relationship daily. Jesus, the hope of glory resides in us which means we are freed from living an 'ism' type of life (moralism, legalism, perfectionism, spiritualism, traditionalism, etc.) With Christ already fully in us, there is no need to try to perform or behave in such a way in hopes to get more of Christ in us. Also, the hope of glory (Jesus) empowers us to boldly proclaim and live Christ-centered lives all day, everyday.

Discussion Questions

1. Is your suffering connected to your service to Jesus? Where are you serving Jesus and what are some of the consequences (suffering) you are enduring because of your service to Christ? When suffering comes (and it will), how do you respond? Do you get angry, mad, frustrated, or do you use your suffering as an opportunity to grow closer to Christ and make much of Christ to those around you?
2. The Apostle Paul proclaims that Jesus, the hope of glory resides in us. If Christ is already in us and is pleased with us, why do we live in such a way to get more of Christ in us through our 'isms' (moralism, perfectionism, legalism, etc.)? What are some practical ways in which we can be on guard from going back to living an 'ism' driven life?
3. If we really believed that there was nothing we could do to be closer to Jesus than we currently are, and God can't love us any more than He does right now, what would be different in our lives? How would this belief impact us tomorrow and the rest of this week?
4. Having Christ in us is not an excuse to do whatever we want; rather, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live for God because we are united with Christ. Paul says "to this end I labor, struggling with all his energy which so powerfully works in me." (Col. 1:29). What tasks and/or responsibilities are you doing in your own flesh right now rather than relying on the power of Christ within you? What would it look like in your life to labor with His power rather than your own? Share some practical ways in which you can begin to rely on His power at work within you?

Announcements –

- **Beginnings Brunch** – this Sunday, July 29th at 10:30AM, the GENESIS Connections Team will be hosting a brunch for all the new (or newer) people to GENESIS over the past month. If you've brought a friend to GENESIS recently, please invite them to join you this coming Sunday for the beginnings brunch so they can learn more about GENESIS and how to connect within the community.
- **Download the new GENESIS Mobile App** – stay connected w/all that's happening within in GENESIS and use the GENESIS App to introduce your friends to the GENESIS Community. You can download the App by going to: get.thechurchapp.org/share/genesis
- **SERVE** – a great way to connect w/others within the GENESIS Community is through serving. Whether that be through worship, creative team, GENESIS Kids or GENESIS Youth, Community Outreach, Connections or the Facilities Team – there are many opportunities for you to begin serving. Learn more about serving via the GENESIS Website (www.genesisthejourney.com/serve), or contact our lead deacon Jon Bandi at Jon.Bandi@genesisthejourney.com.

sunday worship gathering at 9am & 11AM www.genesisthejourney.com