

The Supremacy of Christ

Part 4


The Mystery of the Gospel

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TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "Talking Points, Walking Points" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time", are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- In Colossians 1:24 and 2:1 Paul refers to "his sufferings for [the Colossians'] sake."
List all the ways that Paul suffered in spreading the gospel (see 2 Corinthians 6:4–10 and 11:23–28).

What do you think would make a man willing to suffer thus—for total strangers (Colossians 2:1)?!

How might the concept of "stewardship" (1:25) help explain Paul's willingness to suffer?

Review Colossians 1:24—2:3. What vibes of resentment and victimhood do you perceive?

So, **why** did Paul want them to **know** "how great a struggle he had on their behalf"?
- Paul "labored and strove" for them (1:29). "Labored" emphasizes exhaustion and the Greek word for "strive" is the root for our word "agonize". What's up—is Paul complaining or seeking sympathy?

If not, what do you think was his motive?
- Paul labored in order to "present every man complete in Christ" (1:28-29) and for believers' hearts to be "encouraged, knit together in love, and attaining to the full assurance of understanding" (2:2). Are **you** "complete in Christ"? Why or why not? How can a person know?

Is TCC "encouraged, knit together in love, and attaining to the full assurance of understanding"? Why or why not? How could a church know?

Colossians 1:24–2:3

- ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you,
and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body,
that is, the church.
- ²⁵ I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you,
to make the word of God fully known,
- ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.
- ²⁷ God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery,
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- ²⁸ We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
- ²⁹ I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.
- ¹ For I want you to know how greatly I am struggling for you, for those in Laodicea,
and for all who have not seen me in person.
- ² I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love,
so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding
and have the knowledge of God's mystery— Christ.
- ³ In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians															
Christ's Supremacy ~ Our Submission															
Part 1		Part 2		Part 3		Part 4		Part 5		Part 6		Part 7		Part 8	
Introduction and Thanksgiving		Prayer for Spiritual Maturity		Excellence of Christ		Mystery of the Gospel		Warning Against Falsehood		New Life in Christ		Christ-Centered Relationships		Prayer and Conclusion	
1:1	1:8	1:9	1:14	1:15	1:23	1:24	2:3	2:4	2:23	3:1	3:17	3:18	4:1	4:2	4:18

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any topic.
Let's use it to explore "the mystery of the gospel" (Colossians 1:27)...*

Monday—Read Romans 16:25-27.

Tuesday— Read Ephesians 3:1-7.

Wednesday— Read Ephesians 3:8-13.

Thursday— Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16.

Friday— Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2.

Saturday— In preparation for gathering to worship on the Lord's Day, read Colossians 2:4-23.

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____ Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]