

COLOSSIANS

Jesus Over Everything

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Pastor Brad Howard - June 30, 2024

OUR GROWING CHALLENGE

Judges 2:8, 10 NLT

Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110. After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things He had done for Israel.

OUR GREATEST HOPE

Colossians 1:27 NIV

God has chosen to make known to them the glorious riches of that mystery. He has made it known among those who aren't Jews. And here is what it is. Christ is in you. He is your hope of glory.

OUR SURPRISING OPPORTUNITY

Colossians 1:25 NIV

I have become its (the church) servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—

SERVING JESUS IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

1. SERVING IS MY PRIVILEGE.

Colossians 1:24 NIV

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 NLT

Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served Him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

Matthew 5:10 NKJV

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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2. SERVING IS MY PURPOSE.

Colossians 1:25-27 NIV

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

If you plan to be lazy, there are plenty of (places where) you will not be wanted. But above all, you are not wanted in the Christian ministry. The man who finds ministry an easy life will also find that it will bring hard death.

-Charles Haddon Spurgeon

3. WHEN I PROCLAIM JESUS, I'M SERVING THE CHURCH.

Colossians 1:28-29 NIV

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.