

# God's Work in the World Pt 2 Notes

**God works** independently, sometimes **He uses others**, Paul & Epaphras, and **we have a role to play** as well.

Col 1:11-12 ESV May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all **endurance and patience with joy**, 12 giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light**.

- **Paul's** prayer, **Lord's** power, **their** endurance → promised inheritance → He made us fit for kingdom

**How?.....**Col 1:13-14 ESV He **has delivered** us from the domain of darkness and **transferred** us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness** of sins.

- Delivered, Transferred, Redeemed (bought back ransomed) Forgave sin (Only God Can Do This)

**Who is this Son and what authority does He have to redeem and forgive sin?.....**Col 1:15-18 He is the **image** of the invisible **God**, the **firstborn of all creation**. 16 For **by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--**all things were created through him and for him**. 17 And **he is before all things**, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

- Image of **God**, **Firstborn** (preeminent, David lastborn called firstborn king),
- **Creator** of all -- can't be created AND creator
- All things were created by Him and FOR HIM and **He is taking them back - gathering to his church**
- **The man on the middle cross said I can come** (Alistair Begg - the thief on the cross)

**Back to How? .....** Col 1:20-22 ESV and through him to **reconcile to himself all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace** by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were **alienated and hostile** in mind, **doing evil deeds**, 22 he has now **reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, in order **to present you holy and blameless and above reproach** before him,

- Reconciling all things making peace through His blood
- SLIDE→ Alienated, Hostile, Evil deeds → Now holy, unblameable and unproveable in His sight

**Their Part .....**23 **if indeed you continue** in the faith, **stable and steadfast, not shifting** from the **hope of the gospel that you heard**, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which **I, Paul, became a minister**.

- Not moved from the hope of the gospel -- Paul **preached** it, You **Heard** It - **continue**, don't lose **hope**

**Fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ - nothing was lacking**

Col 1:24-25 ESV Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh **I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions** for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

- **Example of the use of these words** Philipians had a desire to send aid to Paul - but did not have the means to do so - Eventually Epaphroditus was able to come from the Philipians to deliver the aid
  - Php 4:10 ESV I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. **You were indeed concerned** for me, but **you had no opportunity**.
  - Php 2:29-30 ESV So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life **to complete what was lacking** in your service to me.

Taking a package the final mile to be delivered...To fill up what is lacking meant to take this beautiful work that Jesus did to redeem these people and bring it the final mile to their doorstep by preaching the gospel to them.

### **The mystery is the Only Hope of this glory is Christ In You - this is our stewardship**

Col 1:26-29 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Summary (God works independently, He works through others to pray, to preach, We have a role to endure

- 1) Give thanks to Jesus for all He has done and is doing to reconcile this world to himself
- 2) Hold on to the hope laid up for you in heaven - strength to endure
- 3) If you have never received Christ, then today is the day...Christ in you is the only hope of Glory
- 4) May we recognize the stewardship of the gospel we have received and be faithful to share the good news that we Like Paul can also fill up what is lacking in Christs' afflictions by bringing the message the final mile