

THE ULTIMATE WHY

Living Our Lives
For God's Glory

COLOSSIANS 3:17



ENERGIZING GRACE

Colossians 1:24 - 2:5



A. Joy in Suffering/Struggle (1:24f, 2:1)

2 CORINTHIANS 6:10 . . . as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

PHILIPPIANS 1:18-19 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, . . .

B. The Riches of His Glory (1:26f, 2:2f)

EPHESIANS 1:18 . . . having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, . . .

2 PETER 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .

C. Energizing Grace (1:28f, 2:4f)

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

EPHESIANS 3:7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 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, ²⁶ 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 [energoumen] that he powerfully works within me.

COLOSSIANS 2:1-5 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Why does God give us energizing grace?

1. The Reality of Suffering
2. The Responsibility of Sharing the Gospel (Matt. 28:19f)
 - a. Warning people about what not to believe or do
 - b. Instructing people about how to live and think as follows of Jesus
3. The Recognition of Dependency on His power (Rom. 16:25f)

Discussion Questions

1. Read Paul's encouragement to the church in Romans 8:31-39. How do these verses compare and contrast with Paul's teaching in Colossians 1? [Connections SB]
2. Read Colossians 1:24-29. In what ways should the church be serving the world? [Truthquest SB]
3. What is the hope of glory that Paul shares about in Colossians 1:27 (Help: Paul used hope to refer to the assured outcome of God's saving purpose for his people. Glory means God's brilliant splendor and presence. In the Old Testament, God showed his burning personal presence among the Hebrews (Ex 19:16-19; 40:34) [TSB].
4. Pray for God to energize you with his grace-driven strength as you suffer, share the gospel, depending on him throughout your day.

THEY ULTIMATE WHY?

TAKING A DEEPER LOOK AT WHO WE ARE,
WHAT WE DO, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO