



Daily Reflections

September 11, 2017

Scripture

Colossians 1:24-2:3

Brothers and sisters:

I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,
and in my flesh I am filling up
what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ
on behalf of his Body, which is the Church,
of which I am a minister
in accordance with God's stewardship given to me
to bring to completion for you the word of God,
the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past.
But now it has been manifested to his holy ones,
to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory
of this mystery among the Gentiles;
it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.
It is he whom we proclaim,
admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
For this I labor and struggle,
in accord with the exercise of his power working within me.
For I want you to know how great a struggle I am having for you
and for those in Laodicea
and all who have not seen me face to face,
that their hearts may be encouraged
as they are brought together in love,

to have all the richness of assured understanding,
for the knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Our Scripture Reflection

It is difficult for us to imagine what suffering Paul and the early Christians endured for the sake of Christ and His Body, the Church. Paul says, "I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ." Is Paul implying that the sacrifice of Christ was somehow inferior or lacking in some way? Of course not! To the contrary, Paul understands the Church as the true Body of Christ. Since Christ is no longer physically present in the world, the Church which is His spiritual presence endures and completes the suffering that Christ did not endure after His return to the Father in Heaven. Paul calls us to see our suffering as a sacrifice which unites us to Christ.

Food for your Journey

Jesus Christ carries God's most important message to us: "I love you."

When passengers aboard the hijacked 9/11 jets realized they wouldn't survive the ordeal, several reached for their cell phones and quietly dialed their loved ones. If no one answered, they left recorded messages with their final words: "I love you." They could've said:

"Be kind to the neighbors."

"Cast my absentee ballot."

"Don't forget the house payment."

But, of course, they were focused on their personal relationships. They desperately wanted to say, "I love you."

—Thom and Joani Schultz, "The 1 thing that really matters in ministry," Rev., March-April 2004, 94.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please watch over and protect our Country as we commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attack. Through the witness of my faith, may I draw people to You and give them hope. Amen.