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The Bridge Bible Fellowship

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Text: *Col. 1:24*

Suffering Savior & Suffering Saints

1. The Suffering of Christ

- Its ordained necessity Gen. 3:15; Acts 2:23; I Pet. 1:20-21; Eph. 1:3-4
- Its eternal sufficiency Heb. 9:12; Heb. 10:12, 14; Col. 1:13-23 (esp. vs. 13-14, 19-22)

2. The Suffering of Persecuted Saints

- Its inescapable reality: II Tim. 3:12; John 15:20-21; II Cor. 4:10-11; Phil. 1:29
- Its “Body” value: Col. 1:24
- Its true focus: Acts 9:4-5, 15-16 (see also Matt. 25:31-40 & 41-45)

Suggestions for Further Study & Discussion

1. Examine the chart below, along with Scriptures listed on the front page (and possible related cross references), and discuss specifics of the complete and enduring sufficiency of Christ in His suffering for the salvation of sinners.

The Necessity & Sufficiency of Christ as Savior		
Man's Natural Condition	Man's Salvific Need	Christ's Salvific Provision
identity: guilty sinner (identified as "in Adam")	identity: righteous & holy (identified as "born of God")	identity: son of God (identified as "in Christ")
under wrath	wrath must be justly appeased	propitiation – wrath satisfied
condemned	judicial sentence must be fully satisfied	forgiven – sentence expunged
sinner/transgressor	all sin must be covered & forgiven	atonement – sin removed
dead in sin	a new & holy life principle must be created	regeneration – new creation
hostile toward God	a new & holy attitude must be implanted	conversion – new inclination
pervasively unrighteous	a true righteousness must be provided	justified – righteousness imputed
alienated from God	all relational barriers must be removed	reconciliation – relational union

2. Based on Acts 9:4-5 & 15-16, plus John 15:2-21, what is the true, underlying motivation driving persecutors to direct hostility and oppression toward those who name Christ as Lord and stand fast in the faith?
3. Examine Phil. 2:29-30 and discuss how the phraseology in that text might help us better understand the phrase "filling up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions" (NASB), or "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" (KJV), in our text verse, Col. 1:24.
4. Discuss both the personal and local church implications of the phrase "on behalf of the body" (NASB), or "for the sake of His body" (NKJV), in the text verse. In what ways might the persecution of saints contribute, both in past history and in the present time, to the benefit of the body of Christ? Do you believe that your faith is growing because of what you know about the persecuted church?
5. Examine the following Scriptures and discuss the responsibility of the Church (both individual Christians and local congregations) toward persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.
Prov. 24:11-12; Prov. 31:8-9; Job 29:12-16; Job 30:25; Eccl. 4:1-2; I Cor. 12:25