

Filling Up That Which Is Lacking



Colossians 1:24-29



Why Christ Came in an Earthly Body

What was His journey?

- * Emptied Himself (Philippians 2:7)
- * Suffered in the flesh (I Peter 4:1)
- * Became a bond-servant (Philippians 2:7)

What did He gain?

- * Benefit in others...
- * Younger brothers & sisters (Romans 8:29)
- * A spiritual Body (Colossians 1:18)

To suffer so that others would benefit is the spirit with which Christ came to earth

God sent Christ in an earthly Body to fill up that which was lacking – in afflictions!



Why Christ's Body Exists on Earth

What is our journey?

- * Emptying ourselves
- * Suffering in the flesh
- * Becoming bond-servants

What do we gain?

- * Benefit in others...
- * Other brothers & sisters
- * Membership in Christ's Body

To suffer so that others will benefit is the true spirit of Christ's Body today

God has placed us in Christ's Body to fill up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions!



A Trick Question?

Did Christ finish His earthly task?

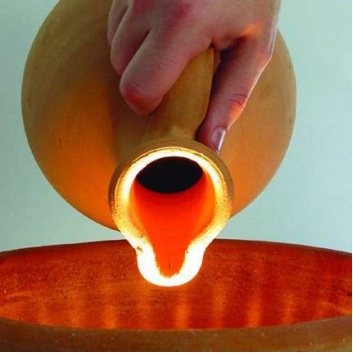
- * John 17:4, John 19:30
- * Absolutely yes!

Then what could possibly be remaining?

- * John 14:12,16
- * When (because) Christ's earthly Body went up to heaven, His spiritual Body (the Church) could be born through the Holy Spirit

Now Christ's Body has been entrusted with the same task of filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions





A Two-Fold Filling Up

1. The inner suffering

- ★ private spiritual surrender to God
- ★ each member has a direct connection with the Head

2. The outward suffering

- ★ ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit
- ★ each member contributes to strength of the Body
- ★ e.g: Paul in fully suffering and preaching (Colossians 1:24-25)
- ★ e.g: suffering so that we can comfort others (II Corinthians 1:4)



“I Have Finished the Course”

The testimony of Paul:

- ★ II Timothy 4:6-8
- ★ He had this mindset throughout His life

The testimony of Christ's Body:

- ★ The inner life: Matthew 7:21-23
- ★ The outward life: Matthew 25:14-46

Colossians 1:29 – The Holy Spirit empowers us



One Solitary Life...

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village.

He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty.

Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family.

He never went to college.

He never put His foot inside a big city.

He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but Himself.



One Solitary Life...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

One of them denied Him.

He was turned over to His enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves.

While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat.

When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.



One Solitary Life...

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am well within the mark when I say that
all the armies that ever marched,
all the navies that were ever built,
all the parliaments that ever sat,
and all the kings that ever reigned,
put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth
as powerfully as has that...
one solitary life.

***Just one life – it will soon be past;
Only what is done for Christ will last!***

