



SUPREME

PASTOR ED NEWTON OCTOBER 7 & 8 UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Oct 8, 2023
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Up Close and Personal

Text: Colossians 1:14-2:5

Target: When you see the success of someone, do not overlook the adversity that was required to get them where they are.

- I. **The Secret in Suffering:** *“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,”* (Vs. 1:24)
 - A. **Fellowship in Persecution:** *“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”* (Phil. 3:10)
 - B. **Fruit Produced:** *“for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* (James 1:3-4)
 - C. **Future Promise:** *“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33)
 1. **People Saved:** *“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel”* (Phil 1:12)
 2. **Special Reward:** *“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,”* (2 Cor. 4:17)

Question #1: *How can “rejoicing” authentically exist during times of suffering? What specific truths provide us with hope and resilience during these seasons of life?*

Question #2: *Has there been a time in your life when you experienced deeper fellowship or witnessed fruit produced from a season of suffering? What was that like, and how did that prepare you for future hardships?*

- II. **The Motivation for Ministry:** *“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,”* (Vs. 1:25)
- A. **A Clear Calling:** *“to make the word of God fully known,”* (Vs. 25)
 - 1. **Make it Plain:** *“the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.”* (Vs. 26)
 - 2. **Make it Personal:** *“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.”* (Vs. 27)
 - 3. **Make it Pertinent:** *“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”* (Vs. 28)
 - B. **A Consuming Passion:** *“For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”* (Vs. 29)

Question #3: As Christians, we may not all be called to work at a church or serve as full-time pastors or missionaries - so in what way is every Christian called to be a minister? What are the fundamentals of having a fruitful personal ministry to others?

Question #4: Has God given you a personal “consuming passion” stirring you to reach out and serve a specific group of people or address a particular area of need in your community? How can we collectively support and strengthen one another in these individual pursuits?

- III. **The Hope for The Hearers:** *“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,”* (Vs. 2:1)
- A. **Revelation to Receive:** *“I want you to know”* (Vs. 2:1)
 - 1. **Receive Encouragement:** *“that their hearts may be encouraged”* (Vs. 2a)
 - 2. **Embrace Unity:** *“being knit together in love”* (Vs. 2:2b)
 - 3. **Awaken Enlightenment:** *“to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ,”* (Vs. 2:2c)
 - B. **Expectation to Believe:** *“reach all the the riches”* (Vs. 2:2c)
 - 1. **Pursue Treasure:** *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* (Vs. 2:3)
 - 2. **Defend for Truth:** *“I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.”* (Vs.2:4)

3. Firm in the Faith: *“rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.”* (Vs. 2:5)

Takeaway: *“Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”* Nelson Mandela

Question #5: *What Biblical stories (or modern examples) come to mind that illustrate someone overcoming adversity? What inspiration and insights can we draw from these examples, and how do they shape our confidence in God’s plan through challenging times?*