

Reactions to Rev. Brauer's Exegesis of Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

First of all, a heartfelt thank you is in order to Pastor Brauer for his study and efforts as he prepared this essay for our edification and encouragement. Your Christ-centered exposition correctly echoes Paul's words and keeps our focus on what is truly important for our flocks and for ourselves as ministers.

Points to appreciate

The following quotations are not intended to be an exhaustive list, but are simply representative of Gospel truths to which we all do well to hold fast.

Pg. 2: "How joyful to be so associated with Christ that an unbelieving world treats you like it treated him!"

Pg. 3: "We trust that our scars which Christ calls his own will benefit the church."

Pg. 6: "This is a beautiful verse. It reveals to us God's very heart...God wanted to tell you something very important, and he did everything in his power and grace to make it happen...simply because he wanted to."

Pg. 8: "[This clause] is the purpose of all Paul's instructing and teaching. This is the reason why Paul toils and exerts himself and endures many a struggle. This is Paul's driving ambition in the ministry..."

Pg. 9: "Only in connection with Christ can anybody be said to be *complete*."

Pg. 10: "The toil and exertion Paul did was in line with the working which Christ was doing in Paul. Paul did not generate the energy. Christ did."

Pg. 12: "Just think of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge we have in Christ..."

Points to explore further

This is not a list of subjects that necessarily should have been included, but simply of summary of additional discussion topics which came to mind while studying through Pastor Brauer's essay.

1. How to better cultivate / model both joy in suffering and the joy of suffering as ministers of the Gospel?
2. Balancing a "servant of the Church" mindset with service to individual congregations.
3. Are we eager to make sure our people are filled-up with the Gospel? Are they eager to be filled? How do we correct course when these things are lacking?
4. "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Can we ever appropriate this truth enough?
5. The struggle between a lack of energy and the energetic working (generating power) of the Gospel.
6. The persuasive nature of man-made religions and the natural obstacle of the *opinio legis*.
7. The importance of being with each other in spirit.

Thank you for your faithful work and encouragement! Soli Deo Gloria!

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