

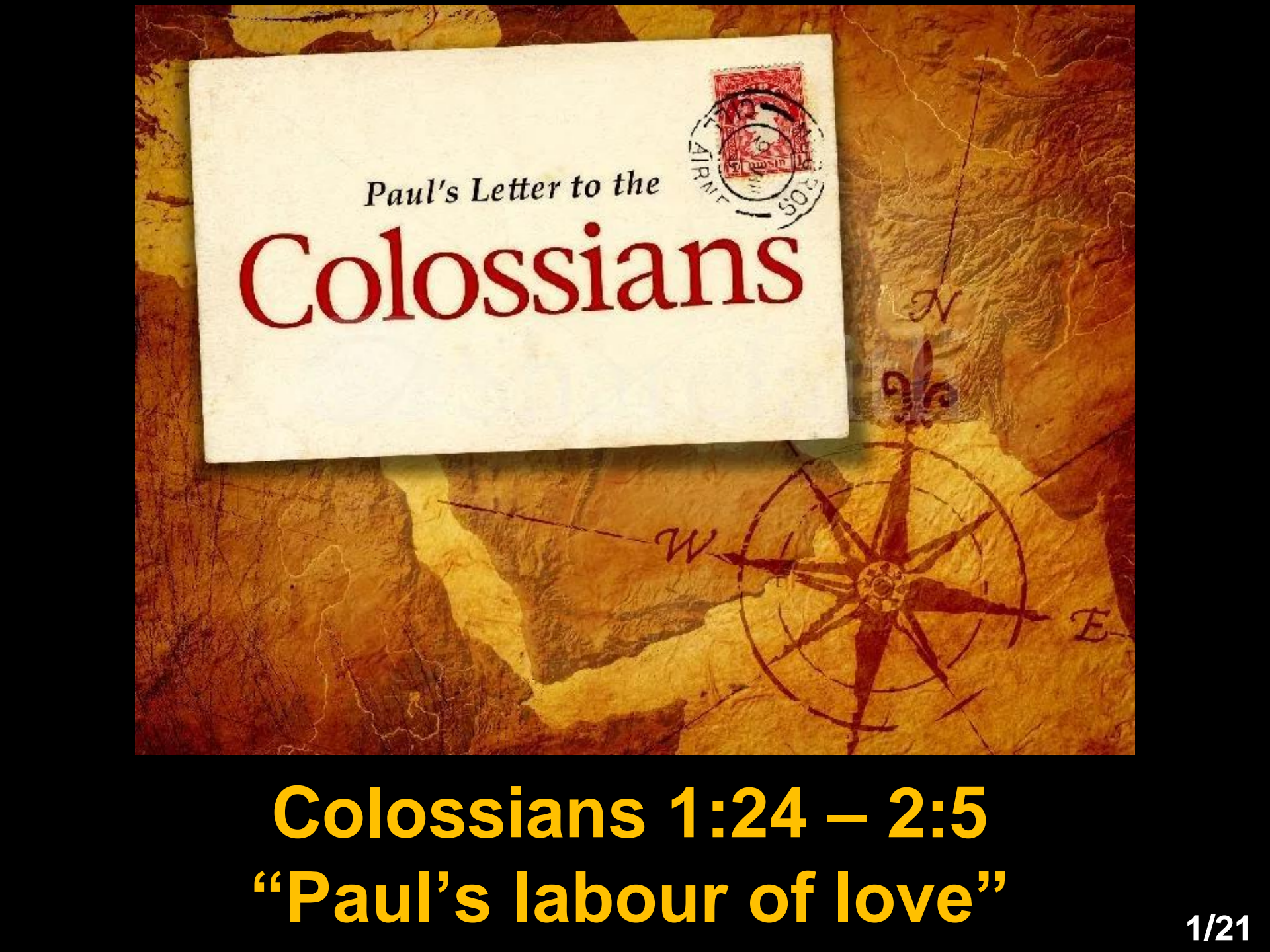
An aerial photograph of Prague, Czech Republic, during the golden hour of sunset. The Vltava River flows through the center, with the Charles Bridge spanning across it. The city's architecture is visible, including a prominent green dome on the left and various red-roofed buildings. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow light from the setting sun.

WELCOME
to the
International Baptist Church
of Prague

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2020

A scenic landscape featuring a range of snow-capped mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the mountains and trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

SERMON



Paul's Letter to the
Colossians

Colossians 1:24 – 2:5
“Paul’s labour of love”

Colossians 1:24-29

1 ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.

²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 2:1-5

2¹ I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

2² My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4⁴ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

5⁵ For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.



29 May 1953



COLOSSIANS 1:24-27 PREPARED TO SERVE

Prepared to Suffer 1:24

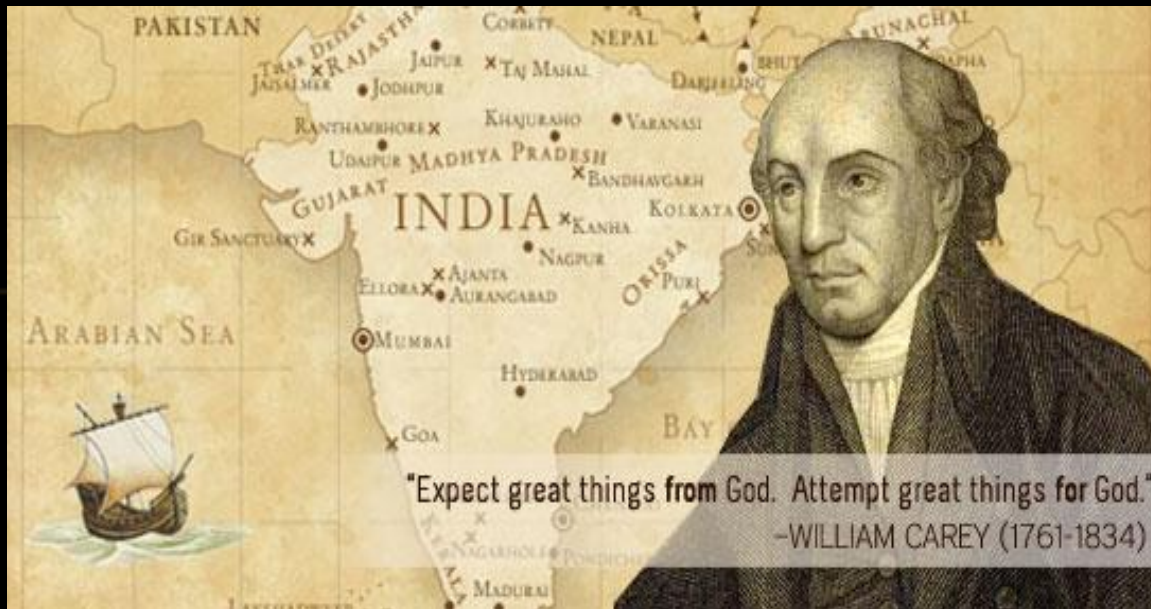
Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.



COLOSSIANS 1:24-27 PREPARED TO SERVE

Prepared to Suffer 1:24

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and... for the sake of his body, which is the church.



WILLIAM CAREY: "This is indeed the valley of the shadow of death to me... But I rejoice that I am here notwithstanding; and God is here."

COLOSSIANS 1:24-27 PREPARED TO SERVE Called by the Lord 1:25-26

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God...

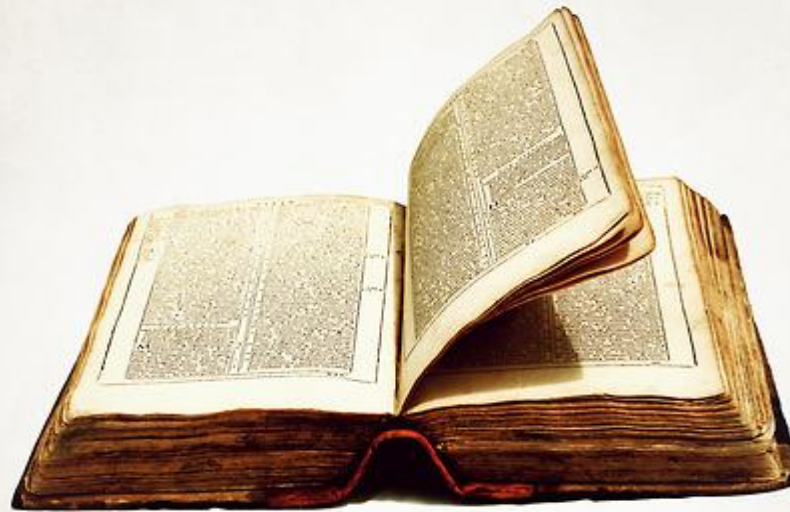


Acts 1:8: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

COLOSSIANS 1:24-27 PREPARED TO SERVE

Presenting God's Word 1:25-27

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.



GOD'S **WORD**

COLOSSIANS 1:24-27 PREPARED TO SERVE

1:27: The Message

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**



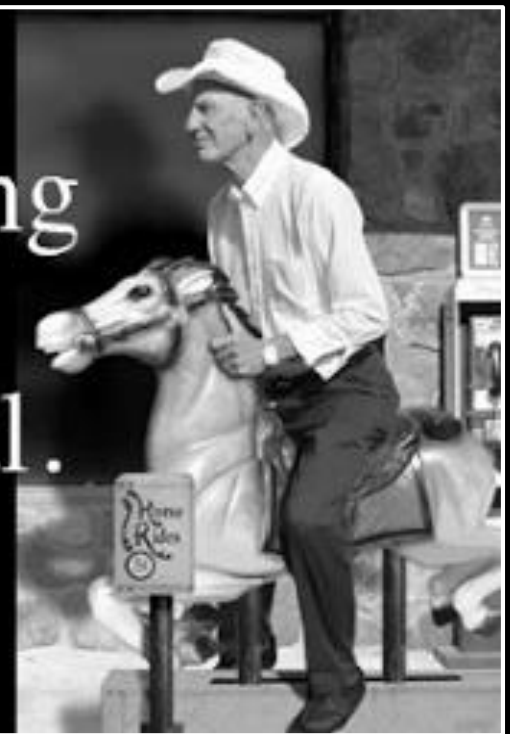
COLOSSIANS 1:28 – 2:1 PREPARED TO WORK

Aiming for maturity 1:28

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.



Maturing
is
optional.



COLOSSIANS 1:28 – 2:1 PREPARED TO WORK

Energised by Christ 1:29

To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.



COLOSSIANS 1:28 – 2:1 PREPARED TO WORK

Wrestling in Prayer 2:1

I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.



COLOSSIANS 1:28 – 2:1 PREPARED TO WORK

1:28: The Goal

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.



COLOSSIANS 2:2-5 PREPARED TO EQUIP A Big Goal 2:2

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ...



THE SON IS THE IMAGE OF THE
INVISIBLE GOD, THE FIRSTBORN
OVER ALL CREATION.

COLOSSIANS 1:15

16 For in him all things were created:

things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;

all things have been created through him and for him.

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things,

whether things on earth or things in heaven,

by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

COLOSSIANS 2:2-5 - PREPARED TO EQUIP A Great Saviour 2:3

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.



COLOSSIANS 2:2-5 - PREPARED TO EQUIP

A Real Danger 2:4-5

I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.



Professor John Lennox

“Nonsense remains nonsense, even when talked by world-famous scientists.”

“Atheism. The belief that there was once absolutely nothing. And nothing happened to the nothing until the nothing magically exploded (for no reason) creating everything and everywhere. Then a bunch of exploded everything magically rearranged itself (for no reason whatsoever) into self-replicating bits which then turned into dinosaurs.”

“If religion is a fairy tale of those who are afraid of the dark then atheism is a fairy tale of those afraid of light.”



COLOSSIANS 2:2-5 - PREPARED TO EQUIP

2:2-3: The Truth

...the mystery of God,
namely, Christ, in whom are hidden
all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.



NASA's "hand of God"

COLOSSIANS 1:16 – 2:5: LABOUR OF LOVE

1:27: The Message

Christ in you,
the hope of glory.



1:28: The Goal

Everyone fully mature in Christ



2:2-3: The Truth

Christ, in whom are hidden all
the treasures of wisdom and
knowledge.



To
God
be the Glory!