

I Truth of Suffering

Although Paul has not personally met the Colossians he has a deep desire that they become rooted in Christ alone who is preeminent in the church

To keep believers from becoming prey he tells the the truth about ministry

It involves suffering and the goal of suffering is maturity

Paul rejoiced in suffering because he was doing it for Christ

Paul's attitude was that if Christ endured the cross for me I will bear suffering for him on this earth (Polycarp)

II Truth of the mystery

MYSTERY not in the type of Sherlock Holmes but that Jesus Christ is the secret to the believers. He is our hope of glory and he lives in the life of all true believers.

The mystery was that Christ, in His spiritual presence, was indwelling every believer

III Truth Perfects the saints

Ministry is not just about suffering but also about hard work.

It is impossible to give Jesus Christ mild approval when you understand him

Jesus has the right of absolute supremacy

Jesus deserves preeminence and not mere prominence in our lives

We must be on guard against the more subtle danger of allowing Jesus a place of equal standing with other things that clutter our lives

We should adore him, but give him *mild approval*? **NEVER!**