



## Maturity in the Mystery!

June 4, 2023 – Col. 1:24-2:5

Pastor Jon Pickens

### Paul's Sufferings

1. Paul finds **joy** in suffering as a result of his ministry because his suffering is for the sake of Christ's **body**. (Col. 1:24)
2. Suffering for Christ's body is something we can find joy in because it is producing something **beautiful**.

### The Mystery of God

1. God's Mystery is revealed in **Jesus Christ**.
2. We have four great and glorious realities because of this mystery:
  - a. We have a new **identity**... Christ in You
  - b. We have a future **hope**... The hope of glory
  - c. We have a present **direction**... to become mature in Christ (1:28, 2:2-3)
  - d. We have a firm **foundation** (2:4-5)

## Discussion Questions:

1. What thoughts go through your head when you hear Paul say that he rejoices in the sufferings he endures for the sake of the church?
2. In what ways do we “suffer” for the sake of the church? Are there particular things that you hold on to tightly that keep you from serving Christ’s body?
3. What does the idea of being united in Christ mean?
4. What has been hindering you from “being knit together in love” with others in the church?
5. In what ways have you been moving toward spiritual maturity this past year?
6. What action are you going to take as a result of what God’s Word teaches?

## Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be in the room behind the Welcome Center after the service.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at [pj@fbclowell.org](mailto:pj@fbclowell.org).
3. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

June 2023 (Two Year Reading Plan, Month 18)			
Week 1 Starting June 5	Week 2 Starting June 12	Week 3 Starting June 19	Week 4 Starting June 26
Day 1: Job 20-22	Day 1: Job 37-39	Day 1: Proverbs 10-12	Day 1: Proverbs 25-26
Day 2: Job 23-27	Day 2: Job 40-42	Day 2: Proverbs 13:1-15:29	Day 2: Proverbs 27-29
Day 3: Job 28-30	Day 3: Proverbs 1-3	Day 3: Proverbs 15:30-19:22	Day 3: Proverbs 30-31
Day 4: Job 31-33	Day 4: Proverbs 4-6	Day 4: Proverbs 19:23-22:16	Day 4: Ecclesiastes 1-3
Day 5: Job 34-36	Day 5: Proverbs 7-9	Day 5: Proverbs 22:17-24:34	Day 5: Ecclesiastes 4-7
<p><sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,  <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,  <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,  <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)</p>			

**What action are you going to take as a result of what God’s Word teaches?**