

When Christ is

above all

everything else finds
its proper place.

ABOVE

ALL

BEAUTIFUL BURDEN

Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

September 20, 2026

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MESSAGE NOTES

WHAT MAKES A BURDEN WORTH CARRYING?

- **Embrace the cost**

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, ... – Colossians 1:24 (ESV)

– **God's love changes what we're willing to carry**

- **Treasure the mystery**

... the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. 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. – Colossians 1:26 – 27 (ESV)

For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me. – Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

- **Fight for someone's growth**

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me. – Colossians 1:28 – 29 (ESV)

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you ... that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ... – Colossians 2:1 – 2 (ESV)

– **Some burdens are meant to be laid down, but some burdens are worth picking up**

– **"I never made a sacrifice."** – Hudson Taylor, Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Colossians 1:24–2:5, Paul shows us that following Jesus sometimes involves beautiful burdens, costs we willingly carry because of our love for Christ and for people. We embrace the cost, treasure the mystery of "Christ in you, the hope of glory," and fight for the spiritual growth of others. The cost does not make the burden beautiful. Christ's love does. And Christ in us gives us the strength to carry what He calls us to carry.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: What is something that is a lot of work, but you gladly do because you love the person or purpose behind it?
- Read Colossians 1:24–25. Paul says he can rejoice even in suffering for others. What does this teach us about how love can change the way we see sacrifice and cost?
- Read Colossians 1:26–27. What is so remarkable about Paul's words, Christ in you, the hope of glory, and how should that truth change the way we face difficult things?
- Read Colossians 1:28–29. Paul works hard, yet says he does it with Christ's energy working within him. What is the difference between carrying a responsibility in our own strength and depending on Christ's strength?
- Read Colossians 2:1–2. Who has God placed in your life that you can encourage, help grow, pray for, or spiritually fight for in this season, and how?
- Prayer: Share one burden you need to lay down, or one God is calling you to carry with His help. Pray for one another to experience Christ's presence, strength, and hope in whatever you are carrying.