



## For the Sake of the Church

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### Devotion

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*“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.” — Colossians 2:24*

**A**t first reading, Paul’s words are astonishing. We know clearly from the Bible that there is nothing lacking in what Jesus Christ did on the cross to save sinners. This same Paul wrote in Romans 3:23–24, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” All who are saved are saved by God’s grace through their faith in Jesus Christ alone. So what does Paul mean when he says his suffering has done something for the Colossian believers that was previously lacking? Paul is talking about the inevitable suffering it takes to get the Gospel where it had not yet gone before. Christ suffered and died to actualize salvation for all who believe; missionaries suffer to give lost sinners access to that saving message of Jesus Christ. Let us be thankful and in constant prayer for those who intentionally and courageously share the Gospel that saves.

