**ALL I KNOW IS MY ADDICTION/SIN...*WHAT DOES RECOVERY OFFER*?**

*“What can I expect* ***beyond the cross****?”*

*Colossians 1:24-27*

**Beyond the cross, hope endures even through suffering.** (vs. 24)

 **Suffering can bring believers closer to Christ.**

 **Suffering assures believers that they belong to Christ.**

 **Suffering reminds believers that this world is not eternal and it is not home.**

 **Suffering changes believers and produces hope within us.**

 **Suffering captures the attention of unbelievers to bring them to Christ**.

**Beyond the cross, hope sustains our purpose.**

**Beyond the cross, hope reveals the truth.** (vs. 26)

 **About ourselves**.

 **About our world**.

**People are looking for hope, but they are looking for it in the wrong places**.

 **About God**.

**Beyond the cross, hope awaits a reward.** (vs. 27)

 **For today.**

 **For tomorrow.**

**(1 Cor 15:19-22) If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**

**(2 Cor 4:16-18) Therefore we do not lose heart [we don’t give up hope]. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

**Is there anything beyond the cross?**

Yes, there is an empty grave and a risen Savior. There is hope.