

Colossians 1:24-2:7

1. Suffering to fill up what is lacking v24
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### **I. Suffering to fill up what is lacking v24**

1. Paul Suffered
  - A. Scourged for the Gospel 5 times
  - B. Struck for the Gospel 3 times
  - C. Stoned for the Gospel
  - D. Shipwrecked for the Gospel at least 4 times
  - E. Suffered for the Gospel
2. Paul Rejoiced in His Suffering
3. Paul Suffered for the Church
  - A. Our Sufferings are Christ's
  - B. Christ's Sufferings are Our's
  - C. These mutual sufferings complete the mission of Christ
4. Suffering is Part of Ministry
  - A. There is proof in persecution
  - B. There is power in persecution
  - C. There is production in persecution

### **II. Stewardship of the mystery v25-27**

Paul became a minister.

1. What is a minister?
2. A minister is one who executes the commands of another, the servant of a King.
  - a. He doesn't make the commands...he executes the commands of the King
  - b. He doesn't judge others, but he pronounces the judgment of the King
  - c. His goal is not to be served by others, but to serve his King
  - d. Proverbs 14:35 *A servant who deals wisely has the king's favor; but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.*
3. Paul is a minister who is simply doing the work, and delivering the messages, that the King has sent him to do and deliver.

Paul became a minister according to the stewardship of God.

1. The word stewardship means management, oversight, or administration of other's property
2. So Paul was made a servant of the King...a manager, overseer, administrator.
3. Matthew 25:14-30

He was made a minister for their benefit not his.

1. "For You"
2. Think of how many "ministers" are in it for their benefit.
3. 2 Peter 2:14-17 *They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.*
4. Numbers 22

He was made a minister so that he might fully carry out the preaching of the word.

1. What does that look like?
2. He tells us in verse 26... "that is....the mystery."
3. He must preach the mystery if he is to fully carry out the preaching of the word.
4. What is this mystery? v27...Christ in you....the Gentiles!...the hope of glory.

Ephesians 3:1-10

### **III. Striving for their completion v28-29**

What is the purpose Paul was laboring and striving for? 3 things.

#### **1. Every man admonished**

- a. The word admonished literally means to put in mind, gently reprove, and warn.
  1. Have you considered this??
  2. It is not an "in your face rebuke" but a gentle warning to consider...a seed planted in one's mind to consider.
- b. Acts 20:31 *Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. (with tears)*
- c. Col 3:16 (with Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs)

#### **2. Every man taught**

- a. This word means to hold discourse with others to instruct them
- b. It can be done in the corporate gathering, smaller group settings, or one on one.
- c. It is not for the pastors alone, but for all who want to be obedient to the GC.
- d. 2 Timothy 2:2 *and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

### 3. Every man presented

- a. How are they to be presented? Complete in Christ.
- b. Complete literally means complete, perfect, mature
  1. His goal was not to just sow seeds
  2. His goal was to do what was necessary to present them complete, perfect, or mature.
- c. Colossians 1:22
  1. Christ will present them righteous
  2. Paul will present them mature...or complete
  3. According to His power which works within me... and not just works...but mightily works!
- e. Ephesians 4:11-13 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*

**Conclusion:** Will you be presented Complete?

### IV. Struggling for their encouragement v1-3

He is struggling that their hearts may be encouraged. What is it that encourages hearts?

1. Having been knit together in love!
  - a. Colossians 2:19
  - b. like we are knit together in Christ, we are knit together with one another in love
2. Attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding (resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery...Christ Himself
3. This wealth is attained from understanding Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
  - a. Isaiah 11:2 *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*
  - b. all these treasures are in him
  - c. Like a treasure hidden in a field!

### V. Stability of faith v4-7

It did Paul's heart good to see their good discipline and stability in the faith. Our stability of faith in Christ is directly linked to our discipline.

#### 1. Good discipline

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 *Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.*

- a. Personal Order
- b. Family Order
- c. Church Order
- d. Let's be careful that we don't build our house on the Puritans...but on Christ.

#### 2. Stability in the faith v6-7

Camp out here for awhile to transition into the invitation.

Receive Christ Jesus...now walk in him

Firmly rooted	now being built up and established in faith
were instructed	now overflowing with gratitude
ESTABLISHED	