

Colossians 1:24-29

I. Suffering to fill up what is lacking v24

Paul suffered greatly for the church and he rejoiced as he did so.

II. Stewardship of the mystery v25-27

Paul became a minister...a servant of the King with a stewardship (management) in the Kingdom for the benefit, not of himself, but for the church. His goal was to fully carry out the preaching of the word: that is the mystery of Christ in us, the hope of glory.

III. Striving for their completion v28-29

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

A. Every man admonished

1. With Grace

- a. The word admonished literally means to put in mind, gently reprove, and warn.
- b. It is not an “in your face rebuke” but a gentle warning to consider...a seed planted in one’s mind to consider.
- c. Jesus with Peter washing his feet.

2. With Tears

- a. 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.*
- b. Tears often convey Suffering
 1. Acts 20:18-21
 2. 2 Corinthians 2:4 *For I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.*
- c. Tears often convey Love
 1. Luke 7:36-47
 2. Saul was like Simon
 3. Paul was like the woman
 4. With love!
- d. Tears often convey a Strong Desire
 1. Hebrews 12:17 *For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.*
 2. Hebrews 5:7 *In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.*

3. With Song

a. Col 3:16

b. Ephesians 5:18-21 *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

B. Every man taught

1. This word means to speak with others to instruct them

2. Teaching can seem so intimidating, can't it.

a. We see a simplicity in Jesus' method of teaching

1. Good works...miracles

2. Prayer

3. Proclaiming

4. Developing Disciples and Leaders

b. Nehemiah 8:7-8 *the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.*

3. It can be done in the corporate gathering, smaller group settings, or one on one, and just in general conversation.

a. I learned more about the guitar by playing with others and just picking things up...not by taking a lesson

b. Often that is the way it is in spiritual growth as well.

C. Every man presented

1. How are they to be presented? Complete in Christ.

2. Complete literally means complete, perfect, mature

a. His goal was not to just sow seeds

b. His goal was to do what was necessary to present them complete, perfect, or mature.

3. Romans 15:15-17

a. Paul calls himself a servant or a minister here, which in the Greek implies "priest."

b. In other words, he is doing a priestly duty

1. proclaiming the gospel of God to the Gentiles, with the hope of making a priestly offering to God.

2. Not his work as the offering, but the Gentiles themselves as living sacrifices, holy (sanctified) and acceptable to God.

3. It is not even as though he enables them to offer themselves to God.

4. No, the implication is that it is he himself who presents the sacrifice.

c. His goal was to present every man complete!

d. This would be a good time to stop and as ourselves, what will we be presenting?

1. possession, Trophies, diplomas, degrees?

2. Don't waste your life!

4. Colossians 1:22

- a. Christ will present them righteous
- b. Paul will present them mature...or complete
- c. According to His power which works within me... and not just works...but mightily works!

Conclusion:

2 Questions to consider as we close

I. What if our life's goal...our ambition was...

1. To admonish as many people as possible by sowing seeds for them to consider!
2. To teach as many people as possible by using the gifts that the Lord has given each of us
3. And to present as many people as possible complete before the Lord.

II. If you were to die today, would you be presented Complete? THE GOSPEL