

God's Called Minister

Colossians 1: 24 – 29

22 August 2021 A.M.

Series: Living In Contentment

Colossians 1: 24 - 26

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. ²⁵ Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God*, ²⁶ *that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,

Colossians 1: 27 - 29

²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Rejoice in Suffering. V. 24.

- Paul was suffering in a Roman prison.
 - He never believed he was a prisoner of Rome.
 - He was suffering because of the gospel.
 - Jesus and the Apostles clearly declared that Christ's followers would so suffer.
- What is “filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions”?
 - This doesn't mean we must suffer to complete our salvation.
 - Our suffering for Christ and His church continues the theme of suffering as denoted by Christ.

Stewardship Ministry. Vv. 25 – 27.

- Pastors, like Paul are stewards from God to benefit the church.
 - They do this by preaching the Word
 - They preach the mystery of Christ in You.
 - Now all who believe are in Christ, Jew or Gentile.
- New Testament preaching invites all people to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - God has shown in His New Testament this truth.
 - The riches of His glory – to save all who believe.
 - The hope of glory – eternal life.

The Work of Ministry. Vv. 28 – 29.

- Proclaiming Christ involves admonishing and teaching.
 - Admonishing refers to warning of sin and consequences.
 - Teaching refers to building up to maturity in Christ.
 - Wisdom refers to living wisely.
 - The purpose – so everyone will be presented complete.
- The work of ministry is labor intensive.
 - Paul labored striving to exhaustion, compared to the agonizing of an athlete.
 - God empowers the minister for this mighty work.

Conclusion

- All Christians will suffer in one way or another for their faith and for Christ, but that should bring great joy knowing God is in and with us.
- All Christians are called to minister with gifts and ministries God has given us individually, and serving Him brings great joy.
- All Christians are called to labor for the Lord even to complete exhaustion, knowing that He will empower us to the work. The Joy of the Lord is our strength.