

**Series "Jesus Is First"
"Priorities Of Ministry"
Colossians 1:24-29
Part-5**

1 Timothy 1:12-14

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Message Of The Ministry Is That The Bible Transforms People, Making Them Complete In Christ."

- 1. Verse 24 – Paul’s Suffering**
- 2. Verses 25-27 – Paul’s Message**
- 3. Verse 28 – Paul’s Purpose**
- 4. Verse 29 – Paul’s Power**

1. Verse 24 – Paul’s Suffering:

Colossians 1:24

"Now I rejoice" – Context: Colossians 1:15-18 – Jesus Is First In Creation!
Jesus Is First In The Church! Verses 19-23 – Jesus Is First In Redemption!
Now Paul speaks about the Priorities of Ministry!

Colossians 1:23

Paul says the word "minister" 2X in this passage.

Colossians 1:23 – "and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."

Colossians 1:25 – "Of this church I was made a minister"

Minister – "diakonos," "an attendant, a waiter" (at table or in other menial duties); teacher and pastor, deacon, minister, servant, bondsman.

"Now I rejoice" – Ministry was never intended to be an unbearable burden.

- 1. Circumstances
- 2. People
- 3. Burdens

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake," – Why does Paul say this?
Acts 5:40-41; Romans 5:3-4; 1 Peter 4:13.

Why Should We Rejoice?

- 1. Suffering Benefits The Church:** 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

Had Paul not been willing to go through these hardships, there would not have been any churches in Asia. The gospel always spreads through missionary hardships.

2. It's Through Suffering That We Will Know Jesus Better:

Philippians 3:10 – When a Christian suffers, they grow and so do the others that are around.

3. Suffering Assures The Believer That They Belong To Christ:

2 Timothy 3:12

2 Corinthians 1:5-7

Philippians 1:29

4. Suffering Will Bring A Future Reward: 2 Corinthians 4:17

Colossians 1:24

John 19:30 – He said, "It is finished!"

Colossians 2:14

Paul does not speak of completion, but of conformity to Christ's sufferings: Jesus Christ's ministry was marked by suffering; we continue the suffering as followers of Christ.

The word "afflictions" refers to the "pressures" of life, the persecutions Paul endured. This word is never used in the New Testament for the sacrificial sufferings of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 3:23-25

Willingness to suffer with Christ

2. Verses 25-27 – Paul's Message:

Colossians 1:25

Entrusted: "Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship" – "Something entrusted in our hands, entrusted with a household, entrusted by the owner." We must be faithful.

"from God bestowed on me for your benefit," – The blessings that come from the message, Romans 15:16.

The Primary Focus: "so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God," – Or a literal meaning would be – "that I might complete the Word of God." The idea is to lay out the Word of God fully.

Colossians 1:26

"that is, the mystery" – What does Paul mean by "mystery" – Not "cannot understand," but something that cannot be understood unless God reveals it.

"which has been hidden from the past ages and generations;" – That God was going to extend His grace to the Gentiles. They really had racial prejudice, Isaiah 49:6.

The Gospel Message is for all: Only Jesus can knock down the walls.

Romans 16:25-26

Colossians 1:27

Ephesians 3:4-6

3. Verse 28 – Paul's Purpose:

Colossians 1:28

1 Thessalonians 5:23

There were 3 means that Paul used to bring the believers to maturity:

1. **Paul Proclaimed Christ** – "We proclaim Him," – "to publicly declare a completed truth or happening."

Christianity is Christ!

2. **Paul Warned Every Person** – "admonishing every man" – Means "an encouraging warning, counsel in view of sin and coming punishment, need of repentance." Acts 20:31

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

3. **Paul Taught Every Person** – "teaching every man with all wisdom," – "This is the imparting positive truth;" "every man" is used 3X in this verse.

“with all wisdom” – “practical discernment, biblical principles for holy living.”

“so that we may present every man complete in Christ.” – Jesus is the subject and the object! The goal of ministry is the maturity of the saints!

Complete – means “mature, perfect, maturity.” It speaks of the present to the future. God wants to prepare the saints as fully as possible, so that our lives in the present world will reflect to others a meaningful readiness for our final transformation, Philippians 3:12.

4. Verse 29 – Paul’s Power:

Colossians 1:29 – “For this purpose also I labor,” – The word “labor” describes “someone who has worked so hard, it is as if they have suffered as if a beating.”

“striving” – This word used is our English word “agonize;” stronger depicts “agony,” as in “an athletic event or in a fight.”

1 Thessalonians 2:9

“according to His power,” – “energeia,” efficiency (“energy”), operation, strong, working.

“which mightily works within me.” – Philippians 2:13.

Application:

1. As A Christian, We Can Rejoice In Suffering. Through Suffering, We Will Know Jesus Better. Suffering Assures The Believer That They Belong To Christ. Suffering Will Bring A Future Reward.
2. Paul’s Message And Goal Should Be Our Message. Colossians 1:25 – “so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God,” – “that I might complete the Word of God.” The idea is to lay out the Word of God fully.
3. Jesus Is The Subject And The Object! The Goal Of Ministry Is The Maturity Of The Saints: Colossians 1:28.

Galatians 2:20