

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 5)

TEXT: Col. 1:24-29

INTRO: “There’s a shift in verse 24, as Paul began speaking about himself as a preacher of the Gospel. Eight times in the next thirteen verses he refers to himself in the first person singular—I. We can put our own names there. While none of us are the apostle Paul, he’s our model and mentor when it comes to personal ministry. If we take these verses personally, we’ll be ready to serve the Lord as never before.” *David Jeremiah*

I. (vs. 24) Christian ministry involves *suffering*.

A. As evidenced by Paul’s current circumstances.

NOTE: “In fact, he was a prisoner in Rome because of his love for the Gentiles. He was arrested in Jerusalem on false charges, and the Jews listened to his defense until he used the word *Gentiles* (see Acts 22:21ff).” *Warren Wiersbe*

B. Suffering was a source of joy for Paul.

NOTE: He didn’t rejoice to suffer for suffering’s sake, but for the sake of the Church.

C. Our suffering for Christ is part of our connection to Him!

NOTE: John 15:18-19; 2 Tim. 3:12; I Pet. 3:14; 4:12-16; Acts 9:1-4; 13-16; Rom. 8:36

II. (vs. 25-27) Christian ministry involves *servicing*.

A. Paul recognized the stewardship given to him by God.

NOTE: From the Greek word for *minister* we get the word *deacon*. It refers to serving.

B. Paul was commissioned by God to proclaim a particular message.

1. He referred to that message as a *mystery*.

NOTE: A *mystery* in the Bible is a revealed truth. In this case it refers to God’s revelation concerning the Church composed of both Jews and Gentiles.

C. The Gospel has no boundaries. Our only hope is Christ!

III. (vs. 28) Christian ministry involves *speaking*.

A. We need to *warn* everyone we meet.

NOTE: For the lost about the coming judgment of God. For the believer about drifting from Christ and His truth.

B. We need to *teach* everyone we can.

C. We need to *help* bring others to maturity in Christ.

NOTE: Our job is “to evangelize, to edify, and to help people grow to maturity in Christ.”

IV. (vs. 29) Christian ministry involves *struggling*.

A. Ministry requires working hard for the Lord.

NOTE: **labour**: to grow weary, tired, exhausted

B. Ministry requires effort.

NOTE: **striving**: to enter a contest; to contend with adversaries, fight; to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something; to agonize

C. We work not according to the flesh but energized by Christ working in us.

NOTE: I Tim. 4:10a; I Thess. 2:9; I Cor. 15:10 “We may grow weary in the work, but not of the work.” *D.J.*

