

Marks of a
Meaningful Ministry
(Colossians 1:24-29)

C O L O S S I A N S 1 : 2 4 - 2 9

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, 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" (NASB1995).

THE SERVICE OF MINISTRY (Colossians 1:25)

Colossians 1:23, 25, "I, Paul, became a minister...of which I became a minister according to the stewardship..." (NKJV).

Consider the terms Paul uses in this context and in Scripture for this work to understand "ministry."

1. "minister" (DIAKONOS) in 1:23, 25
2. "stewardship" (OIKONOMIA) in 1:25
3. "slaves" (DOULOUS) in 2 Corinthians 4:5

THE SOURCE OF MINISTRY (Colossians 1:25)

Colossians 1:25, *"...of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God"* (NKJV).

"God" is the ultimate source of our ministry and "the word of God" is His unfailing tool for the work!

THE SPIRIT OF MINISTRY (Colossians 1:24)

Colossians 1:23-24, "...I, Paul, became a minister. I now rejoice..." (NKJV).

The typical "spirit" of ministry is not one of "rejoicing," but it should be as we consider the results.

THE SUFFERING OF MINISTRY (Colossians 1:24b)

Colossians 1:23-24, "...I, Paul, became a minister. I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church..." (NKJV).

If you think "ministry" will bring you glory, then you are missing out on the reality of the situation.

T H E S U B J E C T O F M I N I S T R Y
(C o l o s s i a n s 1 : 2 6 - 2 7)

Colossians 1:26-27, "...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of His glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** Him we preach..." (NKJV).

There is no "mystery" about the subject of the "mystery" anymore--it is the hope-filled salvation in Jesus!

THE SCOPE OF MINISTRY (Colossians 1:28)

Colossians 1:28, "Him we preach, warning every man in all wisdom..." (NKJV).

Nobody is excluded from our purview as we consider the gospel's prime targets (Mark 16:15; Galatians 3:28).

THE STRATEGY OF MINISTRY (Colossians 1:28-29)

Colossians 1:28-29, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom...To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily" (NKJV).

No ministry will accomplish what God calls it to accomplish without a willingness to work!

T H E S U M O F M I N I S T R Y
(C o l o s s i a n s 1 : 2 8)

Colossians 1:28, "...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus..." (NKJV).

As long as there are men unready to stand before Jesus there is still work to do.

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