

Weekly Lesson Theme: Being An Authentic Church

Lesson Scriptures: Colossians 1:9-14, 21-29

Key Lesson Theme: "Growing In Christ"

Today's Lesson: Thursday, April 25

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Colossians 1:24-29

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church.

25 I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

27 God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.

Commentary

Paul wanted the believers to know and understand that choosing commitment to Christ would not always be the easy path. It had not been for Paul, but rather than complain, he chose to rejoice in (his) suffering. It was not that he enjoyed the pain and anguish, but he rejoiced over the reason it came upon him; that being his faithfulness to Christ and the opportunity to preach the gospel to people like the Colossians (**for you**).

Such an all-welcoming Christ was the One of whom Paul and his cohorts preached. Their preaching consisted of **warning . . . everyone**—putting them on the alert, making them aware of the need to heed the gospel, and offering correction as needed. Moreover, he and his coworkers were engaged in **teaching everyone** who believed **with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ**. Here is a discipleship function; something Paul was deeply committed to. Believers needed to be taught the truth of the gospel and given instruction on how to apply its truth in the crucibles of everyday life.

Paul was personally committed to the task of maturing believers. It was the goal of his **labor**, meaning something he worked at with wearisome effort. He was engaged in **striving** (laboring fervently) **with his strength that works powerfully in me**. Paul would give his best effort because Christ was providing the great strength he needed to do the work and do it well. That same source of strength is available to all who believe and have been called into His service.

What are a few lasting lessons that come from Colossians 1:24-29?

- Believers can rejoice at the privilege of suffering for Christ as they serve Him and His church.
- Believers have the responsibility to engage in faithful ministry according to God's call that encourages others to become more mature in Christ.
- Believers are not to be complacent about their relationship with Christ but ever strive to grow and mature in it.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday