

Colossians 1:24-29 – Paul’s Ministry.

I. (24) Suffering...

Paul wrote this from a Roman jail. He was able to see that his **sufferings** worked something good for others, so he could say that his **sufferings** were **for** the Colossians and other Christians. *These afflictions* are not yet complete, and in this sense Jesus still “suffers” as He ministers through His people.

Jesus mentioned that following Him would involve suffering...

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to **His** disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross**, and follow Me.

Paul’s sufferings...

2 Corinthians 11:22-28 - Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Suffering is walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ...

Philippians 1:29 - For **to** you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only **to** believe in Him, but also **to suffer** for His sake,

Through suffering there’s comfort...

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

In suffering we surrender to God...

1 Peter 4:19 - Therefore let those who **suffer** according **to** the will of God commit their souls **to** Him in doing good, as **to** a faithful Creator.

II. (25-26) Preaching Jesus Christ...fulfilling the Word.

Paul was a **minister (apostle)** – that is, a *servant* of the body of Christ, the church.

Act 5:42 - *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and **preaching Jesus** as the Christ.*

Act 9:15-16 - *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. “For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”*

2 Corinthians 4:5 - *For **we do not preach ourselves**, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and **ourselves** your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.*

The wonder and glory of the abiding, indwelling Jesus was not clearly revealed in the Old Testament, especially that He would abide in **the Gentiles**. Therefore, this aspect of the work of Jesus in His people was a **mystery** that wasn’t revealed until the time of Jesus and the apostles.

We preach Christ because He is our **hope of glory (assurance of eternity)**. “This hope is...the confident, expectant, joyful knowledge that we are being changed by God and will one day see Christ face to face, having been conformed to His image...”

- a) The hope of shining brightly
- b) The hope of being with the Lord in heaven
- c) The hope of displaying the nature and character of God

His Word **equips us** to serve Him now and **prepares us** for glory in eternity.

Preaching Christ and fulfilling His Word involves warning and teaching His Wisdom...

Act 20:29-31- *“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. “Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

2 Timothy 4:2 - ***Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

“We are Christ's ministers for the good of his people, to *fulfill the word of God* (that is, fully to preach it), of which you will have the greater advantage. The more we fulfill our ministry, or fill up all the parts of it, the greater will be the benefit of the people; they will be the more filled with knowledge, and furnished for service.”
Matthew Henry.

“Therefore, the aim of this epistle, and, indeed, of all apostolic work is admonishing and teaching every man toward the realization of perfection in Christ, because that issues in the perfecting of the whole Church.” (Morgan)