

“The Mystery Proclaimed”

Colossians 1:24-29

Central Idea: Believers grow to maturity in Christ through the proclamation of God’s Word.

I. Paul’s Suffering For Christ (24)

- Able to rejoice because:
 - He suffers for the sake of the Colossians and the Church
 - This suffering leads to betterment of the Church
- Christ’s atoning sacrifice is in no way lacking
 - Christ is suffering with Paul whom He indwells (Acts 9:4)
 - Becomes an opportunity for fellowship with Christ

II. Paul’s Ministry From Christ (25-27)

- His Mission
 - minister of the church = servant of the church
 - stewardship = management of something for another
 - Purpose is to preach the Word of God to everyone
 - Received this commission at his conversion
- His Message
 - “Mystery” - refers to a truth that was previously unknown but now has been revealed by God
 - This mystery is in essence “Christ in you” (Eph. 3:3-9)
 - Christ in us is the pledge that we will share in his future glory
 - The mystery is not that Gentiles would be saved (Isa. 49:6)
 - But that Gentiles would be fellow heirs with Jews

III. Paul’s Work in Christ (28-29)

- Proclaim Christ

- A person not a doctrine
- Accomplished by admonishing and teaching in all wisdom
- The Gospel is universal in nature - “every man” x3
- Admonish = to counsel about avoiding or stopping an improper course of conduct
 - Focus is mainly unbelievers
- Teaching = giving proper instruction
 - Focus is mainly believers
- “With all wisdom” - presented through appropriate methods for the situation
- “Present every man complete in Christ”
 - complete = lacking nothing, mature
 - Paul’s goal is not only salvation, also maturity
 - Completion and fulfillment are found in Christ
- Paul is expending all his energy to accomplish this
 - Labors like a worker
 - Strives like an athlete
 - Relies on the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen him

Application:

- Know Christ
 - This is the foundation for everything else
- Proclaim Christ
 - So that we may become mature in Him