

Slide 1

We Proclaim Him

Colossians 1:24-29

Introduction

1. For the last four months, a lot of energy has been expended here and in our community, helping many start over.
2. When different people ask me why we are doing this, I tell them that this is what I believe God wants us to do.
3. In doing all of this, we are simply being the church of our Lord.
4. Tonight, there are six verses in Paul's letter to the church at Colosse which I would like for us to examine.
5. In these verses, Colossians 1:24-29, the apostle reveals to us the purpose behind all the energy which he expended in serving his Lord.
6. Ultimately, our goal as a church is the same as that which Paul declared in Colossians 1:28, "We proclaim Him," but what does that entail?

Slide 2

I. Our Devotion To The Cause

[In these six verses, Paul speaks of his devotion to the cause of Christ and to the church at Colossae. Notice the following four phrases:]

A. "I REJOICE IN MY SUFFERINGS FOR YOUR SAKE" (24A)

1. Paul endured various sufferings as he brought the gospel to new places:
 - a. Five beatings from the Jews of his day — 39 lashes each (**2 Corinthians 11:24**)
 - b. Beaten with rods three times (**2 Corinthians 11:25a**)

- c. Stoned once, shipwrecked three times (**2 Corinthians 11:25b**)
 - d. **“Many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure” (2 Corinthians 11:27)**
2. None of us today suffer in the manner that Paul did.
 3. Paul understood his sufferings to be not only for Christ’s sake but also for the sake of the Christians at Colossae.
 4. If you and I are privileged to suffer for Christ’s sake and for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we too should rejoice.

2a**B. “I DO MY SHARE ON BEHALF OF HIS BODY” (24B)**

1. Earlier Paul had pointed out that Christ’s body was the Church.
2. So, the “doing of his share” was for the church.
3. Any great effort will fail to succeed if enough people do not do their part.
4. It is important that each of us ask ourselves, “what can I do for Christ and His church?”
5. With what talent, gift or ability has God blessed you? How can you best use it to serve Him?

2b**C. “I LABOR, STRIVING ACCORDING TO HIS POWER” (29)**

1. Paul used two verbs, back to back, to emphasize the effort he put into his service.
 - a. **“I labor”**
 - 1) Often used to describe work which left a person so weary, it was as if he had taken a beating.
 - 2) It spoke of working to the point of exhaustion.
 - b. **“Striving”**
 - 1) A word from which we get the English word *agony*.
 - 2) Referred to “great intensity and effort”

2. When put together, Paul was using these two words to describe the tremendous energy which he poured into his ministry.
3. I believe that this church has been pouring tremendous energy into the work in which we have been engaged these last four months.

2c**D. "I MAKE FULL THE WORD OF GOD" (25)**

1. In all that Paul was doing, in his labor and striving, Paul was helping people to know the Scriptures so that they might come to know Christ better.
2. Ultimately, that is what we seek to do here, open the Word of God and make it "full" so that our friends and neighbors might come to know Christ.
3. We want everyone to have the same advantages, when it comes to knowing Christ, as we have had these many years.
4. We must see what we are doing as more than feeding hungry bodies, cleaning out or rebuilding houses, delivering furniture, bedding and appliances.
5. We are working to make Christ known in our community.

Slide 3**II. The Method of Our Work****A. WE "ADMONISH EVERY MAN"**

1. In admonishing every man, Paul sought to put right that which was wrong, to improve the spiritual attitude of those at Colossae.
3. In his final letter to Timothy, Paul said that "the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:24-26, NASB95).

3a**B. WE "TEACH EVERY MAN"**

1. Forty-one times throughout the Gospels, Jesus is referred to as "Teacher."
2. A teacher is a person whose goal it is to instruct others so that they might learn.
3. In Acts 8, when the evangelist ran up to the chariot in which the Ethiopian eunuch was riding, he heard him reading from the writings of the prophet Isaiah.
4. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
5. The Ethiopian said, "Well, how can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:31).
6. Philip took the time to tell him about Jesus.
7. Our goal is to use the opportunities God affords us to teach others about our Lord.

Slide 4**III. The Mark of Our Success****A. "CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY" (v. 27)**

1. Simply put, our goal is to help as many as possible come to obedient faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We know that their baptism into our Lord's death will result in a new life in Christ as a Christian (Romans 6:4).
3. Because Christ is in that person, there is "an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17) which awaits them.

4a**B. THE PRESENTATION OF EVERY MAN AS COMPLETE IN CHRIST**

1. The goal of admonishing and teaching every man is to also present each one as a mature individual in Christ.

2. It is so that we might present each individual Christian before God as “**holy and blameless and beyond reproach**” (**Colossians 1:22**).

Conclusion

1. Last week, Kyle spoke about his belief that God has great things in store for this church.
2. I believe the same to be true.
3. We have seen to this point the great things He has already done.
4. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus that God is “able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20, HCSB).
5. Are you willing to give Him free reign in your life?