

Colossians 1:24-27 Paul's Ministry

1. Prerequisite to Walking Worthy (Review) • Colossians 1:23

- a. Faith in the gospel secures a complete position/standing in Christ. What about your service?
- b. Continue in the faith (faithfulness to doctrine) (2 Cor 13:5, 1 Tim 3:9, 2 Tim 4:7)
- c. Grounded & settled (stablished in sound doctrine) (Rom 16:25, 2 Thess 3:3, Col 2:7)
- d. Pressing on... attaining to our high calling. Working out our salvation (Phil 2:12, Phil 3:9-14)
- e. Paul was made a minister of the gospel in which the Colossians heard hope.
(Col 1:5, Rom 8:24)

2. Ministering for His Body's sake • Colossians 1:24-25

- a. Paul learned to rejoice and be content in his sufferings by the hope of the gospel.
(Rom 8:18, 2 Cor 12:7-10, Phil 4:11)
- b. Christ did work for the (mystery) body of Christ, the church. So did Paul, we do as well.
(Eph 5:23, Phil 2:5-8, 1 Cor 3:9-10)
- c. Paul is made a minister (and an apostle) "According to the dispensation of God"
(Rom 16:25, Eph 3:1-3, 1 Tim 2:7)
- d. "Dispensation" → not a time period, but a dispensing of information from God (4x)
 - i. "A dispensation of the gospel" - committed to Paul (1 Cor 9:17)
 - ii. "The dispensation of the fulness of times" - a future dispensation (Eph 1:10)
 - iii. "The dispensation of the grace of God" - given to Paul (Eph 3:2)
 - iv. "The dispensation of God" - given to Paul (Col 1:25)
- e. "Fulfil the word of God" → Paul's epistles complete the scriptures with these revelations regarding Christ and the will of God.. (1 Cor 2:9-10, Eph 1:9)

3. Ministering the Mystery • Colossians 1:26-27

- a. The mystery that Paul describes was: before the world, secret, hid in God. Was it spoken, able to be known? No. (Deu 29:29)
- b. Kept **secret** since the world began, **but now made manifest** (Rom 16:25, 26)
- c. The hidden wisdom and power of God, **now revealed** (1 Cor 2:2, 5-8, 10)
- d. "Riches of the glory" → unsearchable riches of Christ **now made known** to the church, to show the **manifold wisdom of God** (Eph 3:9-10)
- e. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" → Christ in you, and you in Christ (Col 3:3, Gal 2:20, Phil 3:9)
- f. Christ in who? (every man that believes) Jew, Gentile, there is no difference in the body of Christ! (Rom 3:20-26, Rom 4:5, Eph 2:14-18)