

Paul, A Suffering Servant

Colossians 1:24-29

Intro:

- A. Paul was a preacher.
 - 1. God had called him.
 - 2. He was a teacher of God's word.
- B. Paul suffered.
 - 1. He suffered in his flesh.
 - 2. He suffered in his spirit.
 - 3. He was a suffering servant as was Jesus Christ.

I. Paul Suffered For The Colossians.

- A. Vs. 24 "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you..."
 - 1. "Rejoice" = χαίρω = "to be glad".
 - 2. "Sufferings" = παθήματα = "afflictions", "what is suffered", "evil suffered".
- B. "...and fill up that which is left behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake..."
 - 1. "Fill up" = ανταναπληρωω = "to fill up", Here, substituting for another. Paul substituted for Christ and suffered for the church!
 - 2. "Left behind" = υστερημα = "lacking".
 - 3. "Afflictions" = θλιψις = "pressure".
 - 4. "It is now my happiness to suffer for you..." "and in my own person I supplement the afflictions endured by the Christ..." TCNT
- C. "...which is the church".
 - 1. This church was His body.
 - 2. We, as a church, are His body.
 - 3. When we suffer for His church which is His body, we continue the suffering of Christ, in His body.

II. Paul Was A Servant.

- A. "whereof I am made a minister,..according to the dispensation of God..."
 - 1. "Minister" = διακονος = "servant".

2. "Dispensation" = οΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑ = "stewardship", "the household obligations given to a slave".
 3. "Whereof I was made a servant, in accordance with the trusteeship God intrusted to me for you" - Wms
- B. "...which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God;"
1. "to make a full presentation of God's message." - Mof
 2. "to tell His secret plan to the Gentiles." - Tay
 3. Paul was a servant of God and he discharged his calling by preaching.

III. Paul Was A Faithful Preacher.

- A. Vs. 26 "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and generations, but now is made manifest to his saint:"
1. "Mystery" = μυστηριον = That truth which men would not know without divine revelation.
 2. "Hid" = αποκρυπτω = "to hide", "to veil".
 3. "Ages" = αιωνες = "age".
 4. "Generation" = γενεα = "generation". An age includes many generations.
 5. "Manifest" = φανερω = "to make clear".
- B. Vs. 27 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of the mystery among the gentiles;"
1. "Make known" = γνωριζω = "to make known".
 2. "Riches" = πλουτος = "wealth".
 3. "To whom God has chosen to make known".
 4. "how profitable among the Gentiles is the glory of this hidden truth."
- C. "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory;"
1. "Christ among you! your hope of glory!" TCNT
 2. The mystery hidden for ages was that God would, through Christ, glorify Himself by saving and giving Gentiles a place of service. This would be in His church.

IV. Paul Was A Compassionate Preacher.

- A. Vs. 28 "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom;"

1. "Preach" = καταγγελλω = "to proclaim an authorized message as an habitual action".
 2. "Warning" = νουθετεω = "to admonish", "to correct through instruction and warning."
 3. "Teaching" = διδασκω = "to give instruction and direction".
- B. "...that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."
1. "Present" = παριστημι = "to stand beside", "to place nearby", "to exhibit".
 2. "Perfect" = τελειος = "what has reached its end, term or limit; complete, mature".
 3. Every saved person is not mature!
- C. Vs. 29 "whereunto I also labor,"
1. "Labor" = κοπιω = "to labor to exhaustion", "to work with wearisome effort".
 2. "To this end ...I exert all my strength" - Wey
- D. "striving according to his working..."
1. "Striving" = αγωνιζομαι = "to exert effort". This word is used to describe the efforts of the athlete, toiling, training, overcoming all manner of difficulty.
 2. "Working" = ενεργεια = "energy".
 3. "...by His active energy..."
- E. "...which worketh in me mightily."
1. "...with all the strength God gives me".
 2. "Mightily" = εν δυναμεις = "the power required to perform a task."

