

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 1, 2017

“The Supremacy of Christ ~ Our Purpose & Calling”

Colossians 1:24-2:5

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, putting me into service; even though I was a blasphemer and a persecutor and violent aggressor.” (1 Timothy 1:12-13)

Paul felt _____ to carry out his ministry.

“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:16)

Paul often spoke of his ministry when he needed to establish his _____ and _____.

6 ASPECTS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL

#1. _____.

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church...” (Colossians 1:24)

“...In all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.” (2 Corinthians 7:4)

From the very moment of his conversion, Paul was told that _____ was going to be part of his discipleship.

“I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” (Acts 9:16)

Paul not implying that there’s some _____ in what Christ accomplished on the cross. Jesus’ death has brought us _____ with God and there’s nothing left for us to do, except to _____ to what He’s done on our behalf.

Affliction = *thlipsis* =

This word is never used in the NT to describe the sufferings of Jesus on the cross, but instead refers to the _____ of life that Paul endured. Christ suffered to _____ salvation. We suffer to _____ salvation.”

3 REASONS PAUL WAS SUFFERING

- He was suffering because of _____.
- He suffered because of the _____.

- He suffered for the sake of Christ’s _____, the church.

What Jesus began as suffering with his persecution and rejection on earth, we complete in His _____ body on earth.

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” (John 15:20)

4 TRUTHS ABOUT SUFFERING

- Suffering is part of _____.

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.” (1 Peter 4:12)

- We know Jesus _____ when we suffer with Him.

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in death.” (Philippians 3:10)

- Suffering is a _____.

“But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4:13)

- Suffering produces greater _____ and accelerates _____ development.

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4)

How far are you willing to go in suffering for the gospel?

#2. _____.

“...of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:25-27)

Servant = *diakonos* =

Commission =- *oiokomia* =

“This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 3:6)

Are you serving according to your calling?

How are you preaching the gospel in your everyday life?

#3. _____.

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” (Colossians 1:28)

Proclaim = *gnorizo* =

“For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord.” (2 Corinthians 4:5)

THE TWOFOLD EMPHASIS OF PROCLAIMING CHRIST

• admonishing = *noutheteo* =

We too need to be willing to admonish one another in a spirit of _____, as well as receive warning and _____ ourselves when we need it.

• Teaching = the clear _____ of the Word of God. Instruction in creed and conduct is critical to Christian _____ and is central to our calling.

The warning is that without Christ, people are _____. The teaching is that _____ is available only by _____ through faith in Christ.

Paul was a perfectionist in the sense that he desperately wanted everyone to become _____ in Christ.

Perfect = *teleios* =

We’re all about _____ not just _____.

How committed are you to moving others—and yourself—to spiritual growth and maturity?

#4. _____.

“To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.” (Colossians 1:29-2:1)

Labour = *kopiano* =

Struggle = *agonizomai* =

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)

Notice that Paul doesn’t just work in his own strength—but relies on the power of _____.

Who’s strength are you leaning on? Do you see this cooperation and combined effort between Christ and you in your own life?

#5. _____.

“My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Colossians 2:2-3)

Encouraged - *parakaloe* =

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are now doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

It’s impossible to fulfill these responsibilities unless we’re living in _____ with one another.

**Are you seeking to enrich the lives of others?
How are you encouraging and building up others?**

#6. _____.

“I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.” (Colossians 2:4-5)

Paul never focussed on fine-sounding arguments but simply on the _____.

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.” (1 Corinthians 2:4)

Paul goes to praise the Colossians for their _____.

Order = individuality =

Firmness = corporately =

**How easily deceived are you by fine-sounding arguments?
Are you delighting in obedience?**



**God has called you for a purpose. Are you ready to fulfil that purpose?
Are you living out your God-given ministry?**