

COLOSSIANS

THE GOSPEL

CHANGES EVERYTHING

“How the Gospel Energizes Us for Ministry”

Colossians 1:24-29

Message Series: “The Gospel Changes Everything”

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Sunday, January 8, 2017

Colossians 1:24-29

²⁴ 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, ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

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Paul provides four ways to live Gospel-centered lives through a:

1. **Startling agenda:** How to suffer well. (v24)
2. **Simple focus:** Make the Word of God known. (vv25-27)
3. **Singular life goal:** Preach Jesus and present everyone mature in Christ. (v28)
4. **Surprising struggle:** The Spirit's work in us. (v29)

What is God saying to us? Assess (whether or not) you:

1. know how to **think** about and **respond** to suffering.
2. know the Word **enough** to make it known to others.
3. are presenting **anyone** you know as mature in Christ Jesus.
4. are **aware** of the Holy Spirit's work in you.

- Study Guides are available online to help you grow deeper in today's teaching. Go to grace.church/smallgroups, click the Small Group Study Guides banner (beneath Ministry Description), and open the Study Guide for today's message.
- Audio and video recordings of this message and an outline (with answers) will be posted later today at grace.church/sermons. Order CDs in the Grace Café.
- A list of songs played during the contemporary service (and iTunes links) can be found at grace.church/songlist.