

Theme: God calls His people to be willing to pay the cost for a glorious ministry of fully presenting God's Word about Jesus, as we teach and admonish one another so that each of us will become mature, whole hearted disciples of Jesus Christ.

I. Intro – Understanding Big and Small Picture

- A. Jon down at TBS - bringing back memories
- B. TBS - getting the big picture of mission of the Corps
- C. Helps you to fit your daily actions into big picture
- D. Paul does the same thing here
- E. Cosmic redemptive work of Christ; Paul's ministry; Colossae
- F. This help us understand key mission of the Church

II. A Glorious Ministry

- A. The call - serving the Church
 - 1. Called for sake of, servant of the church (vv24-25)
 - 2. Saints (v26); you and Laodicea (2:1)
 - 3. Leaders are called to serve **the Church** - their focus
 - 4. Leaders called to **serve** the Church - their attitude
- B. The activity/job description - presenting God's Word fully
 - 1. Commission/stewardship - **present the Word** (v25)
 - 2. Must present the Word **fully** (v25) - not just part
 - a. Could be 'to fulfill God's Word' - apostolic call (KJV)
 - b. But I think NIV, ESV are correct - full word of God
 - 3. Present it so people understand, know (v27-28; 2:2-3)

- a. To make it known, teaching with wisdom (vv27-28)
 - b. Full riches, complete understanding, etc (2:2-3)
 - 4. Done by teaching & admonishing all with all wisdom (v28)
 - a. Admonish (correct) & teach (instruct)
 - b. We do this with all in Church - not select few
 - c. We do this with wisdom - to be effective
 - 5. Leaders are called to **Word centered** ministry
 - 6. Leaders called to **know & teach Word effectively**
 - 7. This will require great effort - primary, not leftovers
 - 8. We are all called to teach & admonish one another
 - a. Colossians 3:16 - teach, admonish, wisdom
 - b. This is when the Word dwells richly!
- C. The content - Christ!
 - 1. Must explain the mystery (v26-27, 2:2)
 - 2. The mystery is Christ! (v26-27; 2:2)
 - a. Mystery is not some secret code or strange charts
 - b. Gnostics love & preach secret knowledge
 - c. We are called to proclaim Christ!!!!
 - 3. We proclaim Christ! (v28; 2:2-4)
 - a. We proclaim Him - not other things (1:28)
 - b. All treasures of wisdom & knowledge in Him (2:2-3)
 - c. Don't be deceived by other ideas! (2:4)

4. We are called to a **Christ centered** ministry
5. Same as Word centered - Christ is center of Word!

D. The goal - everyone mature in Christ (v28)

1. So that - goal - everyone 'perfect' in Christ (v28)
2. 'Perfect' (NIV; KJV); 'fully mature' (NIV11); 'mature' (ESV)
 - a. τέλειος can mean any of these; context determines
 - b. Perfect/blameless - like in v22 (present; blameless)
 - c. Whole hearted devotion - 1 Kings 8:61 (1 Kings 15:14)
 - d. Mature - most often in Paul; Ephesians 4:11-13
 - e. I think it is mature, wholly devoted disciples
3. We are called to a ministry that **matures all believers**

E. The cost - striving, hard labor & suffering

1. Labor, struggling (2x), energy, working (v29, 2:1)
2. Paul is saying that this type of ministry takes work!
3. Sacrificial suffering - suffered, afflictions (1:24)
 - a. Suffering and afflictions for the good of the Church
 - b. Lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions?
 1. Not redemptive work - impossible; wrong word
 2. Paul's unique call to suffer - Acts 9:15-16
 3. This is Paul's allotted suffering for sake of the Body
 - c. But we all must suffer - 2 Tim 2:1-3; Acts 14:21-22
4. We are called to **labor, sacrifice, and suffer** for ministry

5. There is no true ministry that does not cost

III. Applying the Word

A. Are we maturing in our faith?

1. This is the goal Paul lays out in v28
2. Am I growing in my knowledge of Christ? (head)
3. Am I growing in my passion for Christ? (heart)
4. Am I growing in my obedience to Christ? (will)
5. Am I availing myself of the means of grace to grow?
6. Am I willing to pay the price to grow?

B. Am I helping others to mature in their faith?

1. This is certainly required of leaders
2. But we are **all** called to teach and admonish!
3. Am I speaking of Christ to other believers?
4. Am I getting to know others so I can speak with wisdom?
5. Am I willing to pay the price to help others?

C. Prayer for God's strength to grow and help others

A Glorious Ministry In Christ

Colossians 1:24-2:5
 March 25, 2012
 Prayer
 Romans 15:5-6

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you **teach and admonish one another with all wisdom**, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to **present** you **holy** in his sight, **without blemish** and **free from accusation** — Colossians 1:22

But your hearts must be **fully committed** to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time. 1 Kings 8:61 (Also 1 Kings 15:14)

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12** to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11–13

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. **16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.**" Acts 9:15–16

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. **2** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. **3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.** 2 Timothy 2:1–3

Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, **22** strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "**We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,**" they said. Acts 14:21–22

24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. **25** I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — **26** the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. **27** To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **28** We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. **29** To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. **1** 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. **2** 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, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. **5** 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 1:24–2:5

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, **6** so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 15:5–6