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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**ITEM Conference on Ministry and Preaching**  
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**PAUL'S VIEW OF MINISTRY (COL 1:23-29)**

Preaching Lecture #2

**Introduction:** Paul gives a detailed look at the divine character of his ministry. He recites eight aspects of that ministry: the source of the ministry, the emotion of the ministry, the suffering of the ministry, the extent of the ministry, the subject of the ministry, the pattern of the ministry, the primary goal of Paul's ministry, and the power behind the ministry.

**I. THE SOURCE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:23, 25)**

- A. God was the source of the power behind Paul's ministry. was God.
  - 1. He was on the road to Damascus to capture and kill Christians when God saved him and called him to preach to the Gentiles (Acts 26:12-18)
  - 2. In several places Paul explained how it was God who gave him his ministry (Rom 15:15-16; 1 Tim. 2:5-7; 2 Tim. 1:11).
- B. Paul saw his ministry as a stewardship given to him by God.
  - 1. Paul did not seek glory for himself and wanted to be seen as a servant of Christ and a steward of God's Word (1 Cor 4:1-2).
  - 2. Paul did not volunteer to be a preacher, he was chosen and appointed by God (1 Cor 9:16-17).

**II. THE EMOTION IN PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:24)**

- A. A Christian's joy is internal. It does not depend upon the circumstances of life.
- B. Paul had many challenges but never lost his joy (2 Cor 4:8-9).
- C. When he was in prison he rejoiced because Christ was still being preached (Phil 1:18).
- D. When he thought he might be put to death he was still rejoicing (Phil 2:17).
- E. When Paul was beaten and in prison he sang praise to God (Acts 16:25).
- F. Paul instructed the Philippians to rejoice always (Phil 4:4).
- G. Just knowing that we are saved and our sins are forgiven is enough to rejoice always no matter what circumstances we are facing.

### **III. THE SUFFERING IN PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:24)**

- A. Paul was in prison when he wrote Colossians and Philippians. That was the suffering he was referring to (see Acts 28:16, 30).
- B. Why was suffering a reason to be joyful?
  - 1. It helps us understand some of what Jesus went through.
  - 2. It reminds the follower of Christ that he belongs to Jesus (John 15:18).
  - 2 Tim 3:12 reminds us that all who live godly in Christ will be persecuted.
  - 3. Suffering for Christ brings a future reward (Rom 8:17-18; 2 Cor 4:17).
  - 4. Suffering can be what leads others to follow Christ (1 Pet 2:12).
  - 5. Suffering joyfully frustrates Satan who wants to use suffering to destroy our joy.
- C. Paul was suffering what was intended for Christ, therefore he was receiving what was lacking in Christ's suffering (1:24).

### **IV. THE EXTENT OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:25)**

- A. Paul's ministry was mainly preaching the whole Word of God (Acts 20:27).
- B. Preachers are not called to do everything in the church. They are to work hard mostly at preaching and teaching (1 Tim 5:17).

### **V. THE SUBJECT OR TOPIC OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:26-27)**

- A. Paul's message was the mysteries hidden in the past.
  - 1. These are the truth's that were not revealed in the Old Testament but are now revealed in the New Testament.
  - 2. God reveals these truths to His followers through His preachers and teachers.
- B. Paul's focus was the mysteries that are now written in the New Testament. Our preaching must include these truth's as well.
- NOTE: The church was established in Acts 2 and all of the books in the New Testament after Acts were written to the churches and the followers of Christ. Therefore, those should be our emphasis in our preaching.
  - 1. One of the great Old Testament mysteries that is now revealed in the New Testament is this: "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
  - 2. Jesus is living inside each believer. His presence is the believer's hope of spending eternity in heaven. That is the "hope of glory."

## **VI. THE PATTERN OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:28)**

- A. Paul's ministry was to proclaim Christ publically and from house to house (Acts 20:20).
- B. Paul's preaching was positive at times and negative at other times.
  1. "Admonishing" means he was warning some of possible future judgment because of sin.
    - a. He admonished those in Ephesus for three years both at night and during the day (Acts 20:31).
    - b. Every believer is supposed to admonish other believers when it is necessary (Col 3:16; 2 Thes 3:14-15).
  2. "Teaching" means giving positive input from the Word of God to others.
    - a. All who come to Christ as Savior and Lord are to be taught to obey all that he commanded us. This is part of the Great Commission (Matt 28:19).
    - b. ALL pastors are to be able to teach because teaching the Word of God is the most important part of their ministry.
    - c. Teaching is to be done with wisdom, which is the ability to take biblical principles and apply it to the believer's life.
- NOTE: This reminds us that the preacher is to give his attention to reading, explaining (teaching), and applying the Word of God (1 Tim 4:13).

## **VII. THE PRIMARY GOAL OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:28)**

- A. The goal of Paul's ministry was the maturity of the believers.
- B. Epaphras was one of Paul's colleagues and had the same goal as Paul (Col 4:12).
- NOTE: Our goal should not be to just win people to Christ but to also bring them to spiritual maturity.
- C. "Mature" means "to be like Christ." Although it is impossible to be perfect like Christ our goal should be to be as much like Him as possible.

## **VIII. THE POWER BEHIND PAUL'S MINISTRY (1:29)**

- A. Paul worked very hard in his ministry.
- B. At times there was pain and suffering.
- C. It was only God's grace and power that kept him going (1 Cor. 15:10).

**Conclusion:** Paul worked hard at preaching the Word of God so that he could present all men and women under his ministry mature in Christ. That should be a preacher's goal also.