

Colossians 1:24-29 **Complete In Christ**

Introduction:

The word “complete” is a very interesting word. We all like to complete a project we might have started. Some of us have an interest in starting a project but fall short of completing it. A Professor enjoys checking a student assignment when the study assignment is complete, but when the assignment is incomplete the student is disappointed and should be. When a quarter back throws a football to his intended receiver and catches it the referee calls it a completed pass; if he drops the football it is ruled incomplete.

In life there are both things that we complete and other times we know certain things are incomplete in our life. For the Christian there is no greater completeness than what we have by being in union with Christ. Christ has completed us before the holiness of God the Father. We are striving ahead making substantial progress. We know in our flesh there still is the incompleteness we despise but one day even our flesh shall come to a state of completion at our Savior’s glorious return. I John 3:2

I. Paul’s Complete Ministry

A. Paul’s suffering

1. Not a masochist
2. Martin Luther – Mark 8:34
3. Suffering became the hallmark of the church II Tim. 3:12
4. “afflictions” Gk. thlipsis never used of Christ’s suffering – John 15:18; II Cor. 1:5

B. The Source of Paul’s Ministry

1. A minister of Christ – “servant” v.23; 25; Acts 22:10
2. Paul’s religious credentials – Phil. 3:5-6
3. Paul’s fire in his bones – Jer. 20:9; I Tim. 2:7; II Tim. 1:11

C. Paul’s Stewardship

1. He was a manager of the house of God, v.25
2. No one could accuse him of being lazy – Turn To: I Corinthians 4:1-5

D. The Mystery of the Gospel v.26-27

1. Hidden from human reasoning –
2. Manifested to the saints – John 3:3
3. Glory revealed – Rom. 3:23 Turn To: Eph. 3:8-11

II. Our Complete Ministry v. 28

A. Two particular ministries:

1. Admonishing – (noutheteo) “counseling by way of encouragement” Acts 20:31; II Thess. 3:14-15
2. Teaching wisdom from the Psalms – Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19 (KJV and NASV on the use of Psalms)

B. Paul’s great purpose of striving v.29

1. Both Paul and the believer was not transformed by natural powers but by the power of the Holy Spirit – I Peter 1:3