

The Work of the Apostle

Colossians 1:24-2:5

Ministry & Instruction

Introduction: Our outline: The Work of the Apostle - Colossians 1:24-2:5 Suffering - 1:24-25; Ministry - 1:26-29; Instruction - 2:1-5

Paul's Work in Ministry - Colossians 1:26-29 - God's redemption in stages (Romans 16:25)

"Progressive Revelation"

Verse 28-29 - Paul's part: admonish, teach, provide wisdom, and present believers mature.

Paul's Work in Instruction - Colossians 2:1-5 - Paul's distant discipleship.

"Making Disciples"

Struggling for others (The Believers) - Colossians 2:1, 5

Struggling with others - Colossians 2:2a, 4

Struggling to know Christ - Colossians 2:2b-3

Summary: Discipling others should become a natural thing for mature believers. It flows from love of believers and their spiritual growth. A result of discipling should be "treasuring Jesus Christ" above all else.

Conclusion: The mystery is "Christ in you" (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:22) and is revealed in the New Testament and the group that has "Christ in them" is the Church, (2 Corinthians 6:16). This is the work of discipleship and the objective of the local Church.

Paul takes his personal ministry to believers seriously. He proclaims the truth, warns his listeners, teaches his students, and he struggles to constantly engage in this effort. Paul's actions follow his deeply held beliefs.

Concept: If I am not a disciple-maker I am part of a problem.

These words guide the local Church. Proclaim the Word of God to those who are without Christ; Proclaim the truth to encourage and fortify believers; nurture believers to invest in the spiritual maturation of every believer.