

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Title: “Gospel Ministry = Proclaim Christ”

Text: Colossians 1:25–2:5

Series: *Easter Season*

1. By Proclaiming Christ (from all Scripture), People are Formed in Christ (1:25–28)

2. Everything We Need is Found in Christ (2:1–10)

#1. As a “minister” of the “Gospel” (1:23), Paul rejoices in enduring personal suffering that builds up Christ’s Church (1:24; cf. 1:18).

#2. God commissioned Paul to minister to Christ’s church through (1:25a):

A. “making the Word of God fully known” (1:25b)

1) by disclosing “the mystery hidden” but “now revealed to his saints” (1:26)

a) The Mystery Revealed = Union with Christ (“Christ in you” 1:27)

B. “Him we proclaim” with all energy to “present everyone fully mature in Christ” (1:28)

#3. Paul wants believers to know that he labors hard in ministry so that they may know Christ (2:1–2)

A. In Christ are “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (2:3)

B. Christians who have “received Christ Jesus as Lord” must continue to “walk in Him” and build their lives in Him (2:6; cf. 2:4–10)

Colossians 1:24–2:5 (ESV)

Paul's Ministry to the Church

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.

2 For I want you to know

how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding

and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,

³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁴I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:11–15 (NIV)

¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.