

A "HEART FOR MINISTRY"

Check Up

Colossians 1:24, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:"

1. What Is My Attitude Towards Suffering?

Colossians 1:24, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:"

Acts 9:15-16, "(Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

2 Corinthians 11:23-26, "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;"

4 checkpoints in a healthy attitude towards suffering

I rejoice

For you

I fill up ... Christ's afflictions

For the sake of His body

Masochists: Insist on suffering

Escapists: Resist all suffering

Realists: Rejoice in suffering

Colossians 1:25-27, "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"

2. What Is My Reason For Serving?

Paul was a servant by commission

The commission was given by God

The commission was to reveal a mystery

Colossians 1:28-29, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

3. How Big Is My Vision For People?

Colossians 1:28, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:"

Paul's vision is described in two words: Everyone Perfect

Notice 3 ways God expresses His wisdom through us

Proclamation

Admonishment

Teaching

4. **What Is My Source Of Strength?**

Galatians 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,"

How do I tap into **His** energy!!

When it's my work... I use my energy.

When it's **His** work ... I use His energy.

So the crucial question is **not** ... "How will I get more energy to get more done?"

The crucial question **is** ... "What does God want me to do?"

Colossians 2:1-7, "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

5. **How Clear Is My Purpose For People?**

Colossians 2:1, "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;"

Paul clearly wanted people to know Christ.

The word for struggle is "Agon" from which we get our word "agony."

Question: How did Paul struggle for those in Colossae & Laodicea since he had never met them? prayer

Colossians 2:2, "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;"

Look at the process in Paul's purpose

1. Encouraged in heart & United in love

So That

2. They may have the full riches of complete understanding

In Order That

3. They may know Christ

Colossians 2:3, "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Paul clearly wanted people to reject deceit.

Colossians 2:4, "And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words."

Paul clearly wanted people to live by grace.

Colossians 2:7, "Rooted and built up in him,"

In Him ... rooted & built up

By faith ... strengthened

Colossians 2:7, "Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

With thanksgiving ... overflowing