

Colossians - Chapter 1
“How to Accomplish Our Mission Today”
Colossians 1:27-29

Verse 27

1. We now understand “the mystery.” A Gentile can receive divine grace, blessing, and favor through simple faith in Christ, alone. They do not have to go through the nation of Israel, but can go straight to God. Grace and mercy are being bestowed upon all men on an absolutely equal basis.
 - God is offering grace to all men without measure! This was not prophesied, and was a mystery until revealed to Paul by Christ.
2. But, in this verse, Paul is going to reveal the true riches and glory of this mystery. What does it mean on a practical level to individuals who have placed their faith in Christ? How does it impact us?
3. Paul declares that “*the riches of the glory of this mystery [is] Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” This is very special, and it is something that saints in time past did not possess.
 - Christ takes up residence, personally, in the spirit of each true believer. We receive His very life. Galatians 2:20
 - Paul calls it “*the unsearchable riches of Christ*” in Ephesians 3:8, and a “*treasure in earthen vessels*” in 2 Corinthians 4:7.
 - We are brought into an intimate union and oneness with Christ at the very moment of salvation. Ephesians 5:30-32
4. Our union with Christ ensures our future glory. He is our hope of glory. These earthly bodies will be transformed and changed, and we will be given glorified bodies like our Savior's. Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4

Verse 28

1. The word “*whom*” refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul preached Christ. This was his main business. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-5
 - Many preach a theological system, but Paul preached a Person.
 - Some preach philosophy and empty traditions, but Paul preached Jesus.
 - Some preach a list of religious rules and regulations, but Paul preached Christ.
2. Notice how Paul preached Christ in a two-fold way:
 - “*Warning every man*” - Paul preached of a coming day of wrath and judgment against those who reject the gospel. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Acts 17:31, 24:25; Romans 2:2-6
 - “*Teaching every man*” - Paul taught people how they could escape the coming judgment, and then he taught believers how to live after they were saved. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-3
3. What was Paul's goal in all of this? Paul said, “*that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*”

- The word “*perfect*” means “full; mature.” Paul’s desire was to get people saved, but then bring the saints to full maturity in Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-15
4. Notice that Paul was given an “*every man*” ministry and mission (three times, he uses this phrase in one verse). This verse summarizes very succinctly our mission, today. There are many great commissions given in the Bible to different people, but this great commission applies directly to **us**, today.
 5. We preach to every man the gospel of Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery given to the apostle Paul. We don’t preach the Old Testament law or the kingdom gospel. We preach the gospel of grace committed to Paul, and now to us!

Verse 29

1. This is one of the greatest little verses in the Bible concerning living the Christian life.
2. Paul just revealed his goal and commission in verse 28. In verse 29, he reveals how it will be accomplished.
3. Paul said he was laboring and striving.
 - The word “*labour*” means “to feel fatigue; to work hard.” Paul was a hard worker. He labored intensely to get the gospel out and teach God’s Word.
1 Corinthians 15:10
 - The word “*striving*” means “to struggle; to compete for a prize; to contend with an adversary; to endeavor to accomplish something.”
4. But, there is another side to the coin. Paul said he labored according to **Christ’s** working, which was working **in him** mightily.
 - The word “*working*” is the Greek word “*energiah*.” It means “efficiency; energy.” There was a divine energy at work in Paul, and he was resting in Christ’s power to work through him.
 - It is the same word that is translated “*operation of God*” in Colossians 2:12.
5. Paul was trusting in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ that lived within him.
Ephesians 1:19-20
6. Paul was not out there laboring in his own fleshly effort, but was relying on the power of Christ at work within him.
 - So many times we serve the Lord according to **our** working, **our** power, and **our** strength. This is why believers “burn out,” and quit.
7. Yes, we need to labor tirelessly in the Lord’s work, but not in our own fleshly will and power. As we labor, it must be Christ in us, working in and through us.
8. We must yield ourselves to Christ and constantly acknowledge our need of Him and our desire for Him to live through us.