

# Colossians - Chapter 1

## “The Afflictions of Christ”

### Colossians 1:23-26

#### Verse 24

1. The preaching of Paul's gospel had brought him much suffering, hardship, and pain.
2. Paul calls his suffering “*the afflictions of Christ.*” In other words, Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ is what brought about his suffering. This was the nature of his suffering. There are three kinds of suffering that believers can go through:
  - Suffering that comes simply because we live in a fallen, \_\_\_\_\_ creation.
  - Suffering that comes from \_\_\_\_\_ choices that are made by us, or by another person.
  - Suffering that comes because of our stand for \_\_\_\_\_, and our proclaiming of the gospel.
3. This last kind of suffering, Paul calls “*the afflictions of Christ.*”
4. Jesus warned that the world would have the \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward us that it did towards Him. Philippians 1:29
  - *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”* **John 15:18-19**
5. But Paul was not ashamed of his suffering for Christ. In fact, he rejoiced in it!
6. Paul was ready to suffer \_\_\_\_\_, if need be.
7. Paul knew that through his suffering, God was building up and strengthening the \_\_\_\_\_, so Paul rejoiced that he could suffer for Christ. cf. Philippians 1:12-14

## Verses 25-26

1. Who was Paul a minister to? Look back at verse 24. Paul was a minister to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (the church).
  - The subject of the body of Christ was exclusively the domain of Paul.
2. Paul's ministry focus and most of his \_\_\_\_\_ was with the Gentiles.
3. This was what constantly got Paul in hot water, and stirred up the Jews to persecute him and caused the suffering of verse 24.
  - *"Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* **2 Timothy 1:11-12**
4. Yet, Paul would not stop preaching. Why? Because a dispensation of God had been given to him. What does this mean?
5. This simply means that a deposit of divine revelation and \_\_\_\_\_ had been committed to Paul's stewardship. There are several insights we learn about this deposit of truth:
  - It was given **to** \_\_\_\_\_ to give **to** the church. vs. 25
  - This divine revelation would "fill up" (\_\_\_\_\_, finish) God's Word. vs. 25
  - This divine truth was kept \_\_\_\_\_ and not revealed to previous generations (it was a mystery). vs. 26, cf. Ephesians 3:5, 9
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ had now come for it to be revealed to the saints. vs. 26
6. What was the core and foundation of the divine revelation given to Paul? Paul calls it "*the* \_\_\_\_\_." vs. 26