

What is Your Purpose?

Part 3 of the Pre-eminence of Christ

Date: February 26, 2017

Speaker: Ps Ken Young

Read Col. 1:24-2:5

Now that we are disciples of Jesus Christ and have accepted the *supremacy* of the gospel, what should we do now? What is our purpose? Paul explains his purpose in the above text for us today:

1. Suffer Joyfully for the Gospel - 1:24

- When Paul speaks of “filling up in his flesh” what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, he by *no means* is implying the work of Christ wasn’t sufficient
- Rather, the persecutions he was facing was toward Christ ultimately, and Paul was willing to suffer it for His sake and the gospel!
- Even in the midst of suffering, we can find joy – *read 2 Cor. 7:4*

2. Serve the Lord According to Your Calling – 1:25-27

- If we can truly grasp the amazing-ness of the mystery given in vs 27, “Christ in you, the hope of glory,” you would engage all that you have for it
- Are you serving according to your calling? If not, you don’t know what you’re missing! As we serve, we then come to the third purpose.

3. Move People to Maturity – 1:28

- When we talk with others about faith, we must point to Christ –not ourselves!
- “every man” perfect – all are capable of Christian maturity!
- Two emphasised words- warning and teaching

4. Work Wholeheartedly with His Energy – 1:29-2:1

- “To this end I labour” is referring to proclaiming Christ
- Labour means to *grows weary through hard toil or work*
- This is not to be done in our own strength! (1:29)

5. Encourage Others – 2:2-3

- The word “courage” means *to call alongside* – like someone is carrying a heavy load and you come alongside and help carry
- A discouraged person is one that has lost *courage*

- We are to uplift and encourage and do whatever it takes to be knit together in love

6. Be Obedient and Steadfast – 2:4-5

- The phrases “good order” and “steadfastness” are military terms
 - Paul was there in spirit, like a general inspecting the troops
 - Through their discipline and obedience, they could be prepared for any kind of battle
 - So can you!

Questions:

1. Have you ever had to “suffer” for the gospel? In what ways? How can we bring glory to the Lord in *any* suffering we may face in our lives?
2. In what ways are *you* serving the Lord according to your calling? What ways bring you the most joy? What ways bring the least?
3. Is there anyone God has placed in your life that He would like you to *encourage* and move to *maturity (discipleship)*?

Prayer: “Thank you, Father, for this great mystery Paul spoke of, ‘Christ in us, the hope of glory!’ Lord, please let me see the beauty of this truth in all its fullness. May I serve you faithfully according to my calling and encourage others to spiritual maturity. Thank you for the glorious gospel- may I be willing to share this truth no matter the trials or suffering that may come. In Jesus’ name I pray, amen!”