

Bible Study – June 16, 2021
One Man's Ministry – Colossians 1:29-2:3

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. ²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been 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 It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

² For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. ² I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

SHARING THE GOSPEL – Colossians 1:21-23

Even though Paul had not personally evangelized Colossae, it was his ministry in Ephesus that led to the founding of the Colossian church. Paul was "made a minister" (Col. 1:25).

Their past alienation (v. 21).

Their present reconciliation (v. 21-22).

Their future glorification (v. 23).

SUFFERING FOR THE GENTILES (Col. 1:24-27).

Paul's rejoicing (v. 24).

Paul's responsibility (vv. 25-27).

STRIVING FOR THE SAINTS (Col. 1:28-2:3)

We have met Paul the preacher, sharing the Gospel and Paul the prisoner, suffering for the Gentiles. Now we meet Paul the prayer-warrior, striving in prayer for the individual saints that they might mature in the faith.

Paul's instruction (v. 28).

Paul's intent (v. 28; 2:2-3).

Paul's intercession (1:29-2:1).
