

Focusing on Jesus in a Blurry World:

Focusing on Ministry for Jesus

Sermon # 6, Colossians 1:24-2:5

Main Point: Ministry for Jesus is difficult, but the end result is worth it.

Getting to Know You

1. If God said to you, "I want you to be a full time minister for me, but I'll let you name the place and the group of people," what place and group would you choose?

Getting into the Book:

Read Colossians 1:24-28

2. One of the realities of ministry is that it involves **suffering**. What did Jesus say we could expect as His followers? Read John 15:18-20. According to Paul's testimony in 2 Corinthians 11:23-29, what suffering did he endure?
3. How do Christians experience suffering in our world today?
4. Is Paul saying in v. 24 that Christ's sacrifice was insufficient and he must add to it? (Leader: Paul is not saying this. We know from 1:20-22 that Jesus' death fully reconciled us to God. What he is saying is that the church must suffer in Jesus' name until he returns. Some have even suggested that there is a "predetermined quota" of suffering that must be reached (see Revelation 6:9-11)).
5. Another reality of ministry is that we are to be **servants of a specific message**. What is the message we are to announce to the world? (see also 1 Corinthians 2:2)
6. Think of the people to whom you are currently ministering: have you clearly proclaimed Christ to them? If so, how? If not, how can you make it a point to do so?

Read Colossians 1:29-2:5

7. A third reality of ministering for Jesus is that it involves **struggling**. In what specific ways is ministering to others hard work?
8. Another reality of ministry is that we do it to **strengthen the saints**. According to this Scripture, in what specific ways are God's people strengthened through our ministry?

Getting out There

9. How can we minister to each other right now: does anyone here need encouragement? Love? Assurance of their faith in Christ? Prayer?

Prayer

Ask the Lord to use you to minister to someone in need or ask Him to strengthen you for fruitful service in your current ministry.

Bonus Exercise

Work on memorizing Colossians 2:8 together.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."