

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Colossians 1:24-29

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now 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 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Study Guide 5 February 2012

The Supremacy of Christ in the Christian's Labour



Summary

This week we look at how Paul goes about his labor as a minister of Christ.

Firstly we must notice that the work of the Kingdom, which is for God, is always focused on people. Paul says that His suffering is 'for your sake' and that He labours to present 'every man perfect in Christ'. So our labours for God are not just organisational or structural.

Organisation and structure are only there to serve the ministry of the word to people. Having established this, we see two actions that labour for God includes (preaching the gospel and stewarding God's talents He's blessed us with) as well as two realities of laboring for God (suffering for the gospel and joy beyond circumstances).

Ultimately, Christians are empowered to labour for God in this way because the greatest labour has been accomplished by God Himself in Christ, who stewarded His life for us, proclaimed the coming Kingdom, suffered immeasurably and did so with joy, all in order to see us restored to the Father. Once we are secure in Christ's work we are freed to serve Him in the same way.

Key points

Christians serve God by with both their words and their deeds, and are able to joyfully endure all things because Christ has laboured to reconcile them to the Father.

Questions

>>Are you aware that Christ has worked in order to bring you into the Kingdom? What is this work Christ has done?

>>Is your labour for God in response to what Jesus has done or to earn what He has done?

>>How are you stewarding what God has given you?

Final thoughts

The focal point of God's work in the world is in the people, love them as Christ has loved you.