

Series: *Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*

Lesson: *Everyone a Gospel-Minister*

Text: Colossians 1:24-29 (L5)

Date: Sunday, February 12, 2012

Colonial Hills
ADFC
Baptist Church

INTRODUCTION

Is the church in America dying? Unlike Colossae, is the gospel decreasing and floundering in our nation's churches (cf. Colossians 1:6)? Statistics and societal trends certainly seem to indicate a negative answer to those questions, but perhaps the most disturbing symptom of such decay is the spiritual coldness and godless indifference numbing our own hearts.

In Colossians 1, Paul has just urged to Colossian believers to "continue in the faith grounded and settled," by not being "moved away from the hope of the gospel" (v. 23). In the next several verses, he leads by example, demonstrating what gospel-ministry is all about. Those who reform the church—those who are "ministers of the gospel" (v. 23d)—will give themselves (v. 24) to fully proclaiming God's Word (v. 25), especially its rich message of God's sufficient Son (v. 27), so that God's people are fully matured in that message and mission (vv. 28-29). When God's people are presented to Him "perfect in Christ Jesus" (v. 28), there will be no need to call for reformation or revival, for that will be the constant experience within the church.

So, if the church is dying—if the gospel is decreasing—this passage provides the solution. Bottom line: *you* are the solution. To draw it out: the hope for the church is the gospel, the source of the gospel is the message of Christ in God's Word, and the messengers of God's Word are all those who will give themselves to be "ministers of the gospel." Such a role is not reserved only for those who have degrees and pedigrees; no, everyone can be—indeed, everyone should be—a gospel-minister.

THE EXTENT OF GOSPEL MINISTRY: _____ FOR THE CHURCH (v. 24)

1. _____ *suffering*

2. _____ *suffering*

Application:

THE SUBJECT OF GOSPEL MINISTRY: SPREADING _____ (vv. 25-27)

1. *The definition of "mystery"*

2. *The nature of the mystery*

3. *The content of the mystery*

4. *The promise of the mystery*

Application:

THE _____ OF GOSPEL MINISTRY: STRENGTHENING EVERY PERSON (v. 28)

1. *The means*

2. *The manner*

Application:

THE _____ OF GOSPEL MINISTRY: SERVING BY DIVINE POWER (v. 29)

1. *Human responsibility*

2. *Divine enablement*

Application: