“Christ-Centered Practice in Discipleship Ministry”

Colossians 1:28-29 Sunday November 19, 2023

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 1:1-29 [Pew Bible pg. 983]

The accomplishing of Paul’s ministry because of the accounting of Jesus’ Pre-eminence “which I Paul was made a minister” cf. 1:7, 23, 25

*diakonos*generally of a person who renders helpful service *servant, helper*; as an official in the church; *deacon*; as service to a high official *attendant*

 characteristics of a faithful minister, features of faithful ministry

Distinctive Character of A Man With A Ministry who served Jesus Christ, so that we would be effective in demonstrating the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Gospel in the church [A letter from a prisoner]

“Christ-Centered Service in Gospel Ministry”

1. Such Proclamation of Christ With Our Focus on Him v. 28a

“We proclaim Him . . .” “literally He whom we ourselves proclaim”

Instead of the depreciation of Christ by the heretics against the

Colossae Christians there is the declaration of Christ for the Colossians

READ 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 READ 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 READ Philippians 1:15-18

*What would Paul emphasize? What would you emphasize?*

 about his life, His works, His words, His teaching and ministry

 about His person, His glory, His sacrifice, His Coming again

 about His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, exaltation

 how long could you proclaim Him Remember verses 15-20

“contrasts with the false teacher's style of speech . . .” Alexander McClaren

“the time of obscurity and silence has passed.”

1. Such Proclamation of Christ With The Emphasis on People v. 28b

 “every [sing] person [sing]” this phrase is repeated again and again

three times by Paul demonstrating the individual and intentional concern

1. Such Proclamation of Christ With Wisdom In The Word v. 28c

“admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom,”

 both throughout this epistle [and the Gospels and Other Epistles]

* admonishing [directing on the path of the Word] corrected & exhorted

cf. 3:16 warn, instruct, as giving instructions in regard to belief or behavior.

consider the words of Jesus about self-righteous, unforgiveness, selfishness, unrighteousness, wickedness, deceitfulness [error and evil]

* teaching [helping in the way of knowledge] instructed & directed

 knowledge/intellect primarily has to do with imparting insight and

 knowledge truths, promises, blessings, parables, prophecies,

* the distinction of these "admonishing" as an act that impacts the will

and "teaching" as an act that instructs the mind

 “Both of the acts of "admonishing" and "teaching" are essential

 in our work of proclaiming Christ . . .” READ Colossians 2:5-8

1. Such Proclamation of Christ For The Purpose of God v. 28d

“ . . . so that we may present every man complete in Christ.” Cf. 1:22

1. Such Proclamation of Christ With The Power of God v. 29

“For this purpose also I labor . . .” READ Ephesians 1:19-20

 cf. Colossians 4:12 “great effort by one who labors”

“striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.”

Expositors says; “The struggle is carried on in proportion, not to his natural powers, but to the mightily working energy of Christ within him.”

CONCLUSION Christ-Centered Practice in Discipleship Ministry

1. Let us proclaim Christ more and tell others Who He Is & What He has done
2. All of our admonishing and teaching should put Christ in His rightful place
3. Make the effort of your ministry by His power and not our own strength
4. Our discipleship ministry must focus on Christ with emphasis on people with wisdom in the Word for the purpose of God with the power of God