

I Chronicles 16:34 "Give thanks to the LORD, for His is good; His love endures forever."

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

C. We can call on the Lord to strengthen us in time of need.

Psalm 119:28 "My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your Word."

Ephesians 3:16 "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being."

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need."

The Ministry of Paul Colossians 1:24-29 Lesson #6 1/14/24

Galatians 5:13b "... serve one another in love."

I. Paul was selected by God for ministry.

Colossians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother."

Acts 9:6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 26:16 "Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you."

I Timothy 1:12 "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to His service."

Colossians 1:25 "I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness –

II. Paul suffered in his ministry.

A. Saul caused suffering in others.

B. Paul's new cause brought personal suffering.

Acts 9:3 "As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ^[4] He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Acts 9:5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied."

Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."

Acts 9:16 "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Colossians 1:24 “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church.”

2 Corinthians 1:5 “For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.”

III. Paul shared the Word of God during his ministry.

Colossians 1:25 “... to present to you the word of God in its fullness.”

Colossians 1:26 The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the saints. ^[27] To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Romans 8:9 “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, He does not belong to Christ.”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. This life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

IV. Paul was Spirit-filled as he faced the challenges of ministry.

Colossians 1:24a “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you,”

Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ^[23]gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Philippians 1:18 “But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this, I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.”

Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Acts 16:25 “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

V. Paul’s ministry goal was the spiritual maturity of all believers.

Colossians 1:28 “We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”

Acts 20:31 “So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”

Colossians 1:28b “... with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”

VI. Paul depended on the strength of the Lord in ministry.

Colossians 1:29 “To this end, I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

James 5:16b “... The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

How can we apply this lesson to our life?

A. We will face challenges as we serve the Lord.

John 16:33b “... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

James 1:2 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ^[3] Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ^[4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

B. We have a choice concerning the way we handle our troubles.

Colossians 1:24 “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you”

Philippians 2:14 “Do everything without complaining or arguing.”

Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”

Matthew 6:34 “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”