



**Christ Over All**  
Serving  
*Colossians 1:21-29*

**Introduction**

Paul seems to '*minister*' because of Christ, supreme Creator and head of the Church (Col. 1:15-20). At times we all find ourselves serving Christ for the wrong reasons (*to impress, for how it makes us feel*). In our passage we find the reasons why Paul has become a '*diakonos*' (*meaning unskilled laborer, like a waiter or busboy*).

1. Jesus saved me. (v. 21-23)
2. Jesus loves His Church. (v. 24-25)
3. Jesus helps me. (v. 26-29)

1. Read Colossians 1:21-23- Jesus saved me.

Paul went from being a killer to being a minister. He never really got over the grace of God in His life. Discuss the progression someone goes through in their journey to faith in Christ. How were you 'hostile' to God without realizing it? How did Christ open your eyes to your condition?

2. Read Colossians 1:24-25- Jesus loves His Church.

How do you think Paul was able to "rejoice in [his] sufferings"? What are the reasons he gives in the passage? Discuss. Share of a time when you went through suffering, how it affected your faith, and how Christ used it in a redeeming way.

3. Read Colossians 1:26-29- Jesus helps me.

A final reason why Paul served Christ was because Jesus lives in him (v. 27), and powerfully works within him (v. 29). What does this passage mean to you personally- "*Christ in us, the hope of glory*"? How have you seen God's 'energy' working within you? Discuss.

**Application**

Take a few minutes to pray for God to align your heart to serving Him for the right reasons. Thank Him for your salvation. Ask Him to help you to 'rejoice in suffering'. Ask Him to work powerfully through you this week.

## Over All

### Prayer for Ukraine

Theme: Supremacy of Christ over Serving

Why I serve:

1. Jesus Saved Me
2. Jesus Loves His Church
3. Jesus Helps Me

I. Jesus Saved Me (v. 21-23)

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,<sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- A. Alienated
- B. Reconciled
- C. Blameless

I. Jesus Saved Me (v. 21-23)

D. Faithful

<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

John 6:68

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ..."

I. Jesus Saved Me (v. 21-23)

D. Faithful

<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

## 1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

## II. Jesus Loves His Church (v. 24-25)

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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,

### Acts 5:41

"Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name."

## Suffering:

### 1. Character

Rom. 5:3-5- "... glory in our sufferings, ...character,..." "

### 2. Cleansing

1 Pet. 4:1- "...whoever suffers in the body is done with sin."

### 3. Confirming

1 Pet. 5:10- ... suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, ..."

### 4. Comforting

2 Cor. 1:4- "...we can comfort those in any trouble..."

### 5. Completing

James 1:2-4- "Consider it pure joy, ...mature and complete, not lacking anything."

### 6. Christ exalted

John 9:3b- "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

### 7. Crown of Life

James 1:1- "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial ... the crown of life ..."

## II. Jesus Loves His Church (v. 24-25)

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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,

## II. Jesus Loves His Church (v. 24-25)

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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,

## III. Jesus Helps Me (v. 26-29)

<sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> 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.

### III. Jesus Helps Me (v. 26-29)

<sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.