

One Body in Christ Colossians 1:24-29

Knowing that suffering will come
Relying on the Lord providing energy
As He powerfully works within me

I. Ministry of Paul – 1:24-25

1. Suffering for the church – 24
He rejoices in sufferings as “Lord’s purpose”
Acts 9:15-16 Lord’s purpose for him
Proclaim Christ to Gentiles & Jews before kings
Acts 22:21-22
2. Adding Gentiles brought suffering – 24
“For your sake” (Colossians were Gentiles)
3. “Filling up what is lacking” - 24
Not referring to Christ’s suffering for sin
Jesus declared “It is finished” – John 19:30
Jesus made a once for all sacrifice for sin
Heb. 10:12-14
Paul’s sufferings added nothing to deal with our sin
Note “afflictions for the sake of His body”
To bring into being His church – Matt. 16:18
Jesus provided salvation as foundation for
His Church
Paul’s suffering came about in building the Church
His body is One church – Jews & Gentiles
Bringing that into being brought suffering
Paul was stoned, was in prison, suffered much
Jews reacted against Paul’s ministry to Gentiles
4. This was Paul’s ministry – 25
God called him to be apostle to Gentiles
Ephesians 3:1-8

II. Message of Paul 1:26-27

1. The Mystery – 26
“Mystery” – A truth hidden until now
Not revealed by God until given to Paul
Jews & Gentiles as One body in Christ
Ephesians 3:4-8; 2:11-22
Jesus is the head over one body
He did not say: “I will build my churches”
The church had to deal with this in Acts 15
2. God’s message to Gentiles – 27
Gentiles need to know God’s riches
Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory
Our only hope is in Jesus Christ

III. Motive of Paul – 1:28-29

1. Committed to proclaim Christ – 28
Paul continued to proclaim with warning
Knowing importance of his message
Continued teaching with all wisdom
People need to understand this truth
2. Presenting everyone mature in Christ
Not just saved but “mature in Christ”
This is his motive
3. His diligence in ministry – 29
For this I toil, struggling