

Colossians



At the Center of it All
“Core elements of ministry”

Are you good at keeping secrets?

Colossians 1:24-29

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, 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, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints...

Colossians 1:24-29

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

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Overview / Recap

1. V.1-8 Greeting and Thanksgiving
(Center of our Identity)
2. V.9-14 Center of Prayer
3. V.15-20 The centrality of Christ!
4. V.21-23 Center of their story (salvation)
5. V.24-29 The center of Paul's ministry

Core elements of ministry

Element #1 - the Secret

Element #2 - Suffering

Element #3 - Strength in striving

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Disclaimer

2 Cor 5:14-20

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. 15 And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

2 Cor 5:14-20

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 2

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.

Ephesians 4:11-12

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...

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Element #1 - The Secret (mystery)

Colossians 1

25 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, 26 the *mystery* hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 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.

What is this stewardship?

What is this mystery??

“Christ in you, the hope of glory!”

Matthew 1

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed
the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David

Isaiah 49:6

6 He says, “it is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Element #1 - The Secret (mystery)

Element #2 - Sufferings

Colossians 1

24 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,

2 Cor 4:16-18

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Element #1 - The Secret (mystery)

Element #2 - Sufferings

Element #3 - strength in the midst of striving

Colossians 1

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

Application

- Today!
- Weekly bible studies!
- Easter!