

**Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.**

**>>> A. Describe The Character Traits Of A Good Doctor Example.**

- Solid Education. Bedside Manner. Time With Patient. Listening. Communication. Compassion.

**>>> B. Today: 3 Character Traits Of A Good Servant Of Christ.**

- Paul Described Himself As A “Minister” And At The End Of Verse 23. Another Word For “Servant.”
- Next Few Verses Reveal His Attitude And Actions As A Minister Or Servant Of Christ.

**>>> C. Applicable To All Christians To A Degree: We’re Not In The Same Position But The General Truths Apply.**

- Paul Regularly Said “Follow My Example” And “Follow Other’s Example Who Live By Same Pattern.”

**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,**

**Character Trait #1: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Positive Attitude Toward Sacrifices And Suffering.**

**>>> A. Paul’s Positive Attitude In Verse 24. "I Rejoice In My Sufferings For Your Sake."**  
(Note Prison, Slander, Rejection, Beatings, Poverty.)

**>>> B. Suffering And Sacrifices Related Directly Or Indirectly To Serving Christ.**

- Sacrifices: Time. Money. Energy. Personal Desires. (Often Unrecognized, Unrewarded, Unappreciated.)

- Suffering: Slandered. Socially Rejected. Financially Hurt. Physically Assaulted. Imprisoned.

### **>>> C. Potential For Attitude Issues:**

- Self-Pity. Bitterness. Depression. Useless. Frustration. Why Me? Unfair! “No More!”

### **>>> D. Sacrifices And Suffering Can Be Connected To Any Type Of Service To Christ:**

- Reaching Out To The Homeless.
- Working With Children's Or Youth Ministry.
- Witnessing To The Lost.
- Teaching Ministries.
- Worship Ministries.
- Administrative Ministry.
- Soundboard Ministry.

**>>> E. Paul's Positive Attitude In Verse 24. "I Rejoice In My Sufferings For Your Sake."**  
(Note Prison, Slander, Rejection, Poverty.)

**Matthew 5:10-12. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**Acts 5:40-42. and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.**

**Character Trait #1: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Positive Attitude Toward Sacrifices And Suffering.**

**Parent's Sacrifices, Suffering For Child III.** Sacrifices And Suffering But Regrets? Bitterness? No! Unpleasant But Joyful! Why? Motivated By Love. "Worth It."

**>>> F. Verse 24b. Subject To Misunderstanding. “I Am Filling Up What Is Lacking In Christ’s Afflictions.”**

- Immediately Think Of Jesus’ Suffering At The Cross To Pay For Our Sins. Something Lacking? Need Another’s Sacrifices?

**>>> G. Commonly Understood “Messianic Woes.” Christ And Messiah Are Same Words In Greek And Hebrew. “The Anointed One.”**

- Transition To The New Age In A New World With New Life Is Preceded By Troubles And Tribulation.

**Labor Pains Before New Life Is Born III.** Expected. Normal.

**Acts 14:22. strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

**Romans 8:16-19. The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.**

**Character Trait #1: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Positive Attitude Toward Sacrifices And Suffering.**

**Character Trait #2: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Strong Sense Of Accountability To God.**

**>>> A. What A Christian Does And How They Live And Serve Should Be Greatly Impacted By The Sense Of Being Answerable To God One Day.**

**Publix Employee Evaluations III.** Recognizing Upcoming Evaluation Meeting. Commended Or Corrected. Impacted Present-Day Decisions.

**>>> B. Verse 25. "Of Which I Became A Minister (Servant) According To The Stewardship From God...." Steward = A Manager Who Gives An Account.**

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2. This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup> Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.**

**1 Peter 4:10. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (enabling.)**

**>>> C. Serving Christ Is Not Really Optional: Obligation To Which I Am Accountable In All Christians Are Responsible.**

- Parable Of The Talents Example In Matthew 25.

**Hebrews 4:13. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

**>>> D. A Strong Sense Of Accountability Means We Will Do The Work Christ Faithfully Regardless Of Present Recognition Or Reward.**

- No Half-Heartedness Or Neglect In Serving Christ By Serving Others.

**>>> E. A Strong Sense Of Accountability Means We Will Do The Work Of Christ Humbly In Light Of Our Obligation.**

- No Pride Or Sense Of Being Owed Attitude.

**Luke 17:10. “You also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’”**

**Character Trait #1: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Positive Attitude Toward Sacrifices And Suffering.**

**Character Trait #2: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Strong Sense Of Accountability To God.**

**Character Trait #3. A Good Servant Of Christ Will Faithfully And Fully Share God's Word.**

**>>> A. Verse 25b-2:5. Paul Explains How He Is A Steward Or Servant Of Christ By Sharing God’s Word.**

**Colossians 1:25-29.** 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, <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. <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.

### **>>> B. Paul Shares Several Different Aspects Of Sharing God's Word As Jesus' Servant.**

- Applicable To All Christians? Clearly Some Are Called And Equipped To Be Teachers, Missionaries, Evangelists And So Forth.
- Every Christians Is Called To Share God's Word, Even If Not Called To A Formal Position.

**Colossians 3:16a.** Let the word of Christ dwell in you (plural, group) richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,

**1 Peter 3:15 (NIV.)** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

**Matthew 28:19-20. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

- Less Formal Sharing Of God's Word But Not Less Important.
- Neighbors. Coworkers. Family Members. Friends. Fellow Christians.

**>>> C. Vs. 25c. “To Make The Word Of God Fully Known.”**

**Courtroom Oath III.** Tell The Truth, The Whole Truth, And Nothing But The Truth.

- Common Christian Problem Including Pastors: Speaking Truth But Not Whole Truth. Avoiding, Minimizing Or Sugarcoating Most Unwelcome Biblical Truths.
- Not Lying. Minimizing. Obscuring Certain Parts That Are Unpleasant Or Unwanted.

**>>> D. A Good Servant Shares God’s Word Fully: Whole Truth To All Audiences.**

**Positive Doctor III.** Helpful To Withhold Vital Truth? Loving? OK To Allow His Desire To Be Liked, Patient Be At Peace And Be Comfortable? Put Others At Risk?

>>> **E. Whole Truth Includes: God's Word Of Grace Available To Absolutely Everyone.**

- Explain Verses 26-27.
- "Mystery" A Previously Unrevealed And Unexpected Truth Of God.
- "How Great Among The Gentiles Are The Riches Of The Glory..." Unexpected People Are Recipients Of God's Blessings.
- Most Immoral. Idolaters. Wicked. Rebellious. Rebellious. Bless This People?

>>> **F. Vs. 27c. Yes. "Christ In You (Yes "You.") "The Hope (For You) Of Glory."**

**Out Of Their League Dating And Marriage III.** How Did He End Up With Her? Lacking Good Looks? No Money? No Real Talents Or Charm? No Chance! Totally Unexpected.

### **Trait #3. A Good Servant Of Christ Will Faithfully And Fully Share God's Word.**

#### **>>> G. Includes God's Word Of Grace Available To Absolutely Everyone.**

- Not Here To Condemn People Or Punish People, Feel Hopeless. Share The Good News Of Jesus For You.

#### **>>> H. A Good Servant Shares God's Word By Keeping The Focus On Jesus.**

- Verse 28. "Him We Proclaim...."

#### **>>> I. Peripheral Issues Must Never Become Primary Issue For Church Or Christians:**

- Political Agenda. Social Justice. Moral Reform. Family Or Financial Improvement.
- People First Hear My Name Or This Church's Name = First Thought Is Jesus.

#### **>>> J. Vs. 28. "Warning Everyone, Teaching Everyone." A Good Servant Shares God's Word By Both Warning And Teaching.**

- Making People Aware Of The Consequences Of Rejection And Indifference.  
Explaining What It Truly Means To Live For Christ.
- Never: Not My Place To Say Anything.

### **Character Trait #3. A Good Servant Of Christ Will Faithfully And Fully Share God's Word.**

**>>> K. At This Point Paul States 3 Goals In Sharing God's Word Fully: Note The Word "That," Which Indicates The Goals.**

**Colossians 1:28-2:5. 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. For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, <sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup> I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. <sup>5</sup> For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.**

**>>> L. Side Note: Paul Repeatedly Expressed His Total Commitment To Serving Christ And Others: Toil, Struggling With All His Energy, How Great A Struggle.**

**>>> M. Goal #1 Of Sharing God's Word Fully And Faithfully: Spiritual Maturity.**

- Vs. 28. ... "That We May Present Everyone Mature In Christ."
- Not Just Accurate Knowledge: Christlike Attitude, And Actions.
- Handling Conflict. Money. Trials. Temptations. Use Of Words. Marriage Commitment. Willingness To Suffer. Treatment Of Sinners. Etc.

**>>> N. Quick Observation: There's A Direct Connection Between The Word Of God Be Faithfully Taught And Spiritual Maturity.**

**A Growing Child Needs A Balanced Diet For Physical Maturity Illustration.**

**Blinded Teenager Illusion.** Unbalanced Diet And Negative Consequences.

**>>> O. Goal #2 Of Sharing God's Word Fully And Faithfully: Spiritual Assurance.**

- Col. 2:2. "Hearts May Be Encouraged, Knit Together Or Held Together In (Christ's) Love, And Reach All The Riches Of The Full Assurance."

**Hurricane Cone Of Uncertainty III.** Always Changing. Changing Emotions. Make Preparations. Don't Make Preparations. Leave Town. Don't Leave Town. Safe Or Unsafe? Constantly In Flux. No Assurance. True Spiritually?

- Cone Of God's Judgment: In Or Out? Safer Or In Danger? Blessed Or Cursed?

>>> **P. "Reach All The Riches Of The Full Assurance."**

- If You Are Trusting And Committed To Jesus Christ, Christ Is In You. Even When You Fail, Stumble, And Doubt.

>>> **Q. Christ Is All You Need. Not Christ Plus Anything Else.**

- Verse 3. In Whom Are Hidden All The Treasures Of Wisdom And Knowledge.
- All The Treasures. All Spiritual Riches. Everything We Need Is In Him.

**>>> R. Goal #3 Of Sharing God's Word Fully And Faithfully: Col. 2:4. Spiritual Perseverance.**

- Immovable. Tenacious.
- Not Stubborn In The Negative Sense. In Regard To Commitment To Jesus, Trusting In Him Alone.
- Colossians 2:4. I Say This In Order That No One May Delude You With Plausible Arguments.

**>>> S. False Teachers And Spiritual Forces That Will Try And Move You From Complete Trust And Commitment To Jesus.**

- Verse 4. " Plausible Argument." Clever And Cunning.
- Immature Christians: Tossed To And Fro By Every Wind Of Doctrine.

**>>> T. A Solid Understanding Of God Word Keeps People From Being Deceived And Detoured.**

**Hurricane Hunter Plane III.** Built To Withstand Onslaught. True Spiritually. Every Wind Of Doctrine But Word Of God Keeps Us Steadfast.

**>>> U. Verse 5. Warns, But Rejoices That They Have Been Unmoved. “Good Order And Firmness.”**

**#1: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Positive Attitude Toward Sacrifices And Suffering.**

**#2: A Good Servant Of Christ Will Have A Strong Sense Of Accountability To God.**

**#3. A Good Servant Of Christ Will Faithfully And Fully Share God's Word.**

- 3 Goals: Spiritual Maturity, Assurance, Perseverance.