

Sermon Outline

Looking Ahead:

April 23 *"Reflections of My Heart for You,"* Philippians 1:3-11 ~ Pastor Phil's last sermon.
April 30 *"The Power of the Gospel,"* Romans 1:14-17 ~ We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper.
May 7 *"Celebrating 27 Years of Ministry Together" ~ One Service, 10-11:30 AM*

If you would like to TEXT a prayer request to The Chapel Staff, text the word "prayer" to 269-280-2878.

"Understanding our God-Given Ministry"

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

April 16, 2023

The commissioning of Dr. Brandon and Jenna Cole in God's call to missions.

Introduction:

Eph. 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

I. Ministry is a Gift From God, v.1.

- A. The gospel ministry is the best!
- B. The gospel ministry came to us through God's mercy.
- C. The gospel ministry gives hope.

II. Ministry is to be Above Reproach, v.2.

A. Our ministry is not to be:

- 1. Secretive.
- 2. Shameful.
- 3. Deceptive.
- 4. Distortive of God's Word.

B. Ministry is to be carried out:

- 1. By setting forth truth plainly.
- 2. By committing ourselves to one's conscience in the sight of God.

III. Ministry Centers on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, v.3-6.

A. What the message is.

B. What happens to the message:

1. The message can be veiled, v.3-4.

- a. To those who are perishing.

1 Cor.1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- b. By Satan.

Jn.14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

2. The Message is revealed, v.5-6.

Jn.8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jn.12:36 "Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

- a. We are not the object of the message, v.5.

- b. Jesus Christ as Lord is the object of the message.

- c. We are servants for Christ's sake.

1) Who do we serve? Others!

2) Why do we serve others? For Jesus' sake.

3) How do we serve others? Reflecting the light of Christ.

2 Cor.3:18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Application:

1. We live in a dark world.

2. Being in a dark world, we all are to be in ministry.

3. To be in ministry, we must be above reproach.

4. We must reflect Jesus Christ.