

# Saint Paul's Baptist Church

*Weekday Study Notes*

## W E L C O M E T O S A I N T P A U L ' S

Saint Paul's Baptist Church exists to empower people to grow into all that God created them to be. We do that by finding needs and meeting them, finding problems, and solving them, finding hurts and healing them.

## GET CONNECTED

God created us for community. To volunteer, participate in a small group, or would get more information about upcoming events, visit [myspbc.org](http://myspbc.org) or download our free mobile app today at [myspbc.info/app](http://myspbc.info/app).

## NEED PRAYER?

We are honored to pray with you or for you. Join us during or after worship services for personal prayer at [myspbc.info/prayerroom](http://myspbc.info/prayerroom). You may also submit a prayer request anytime at [myspbc.info/prayer](http://myspbc.info/prayer).

## JESUS IS GREATER: A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

*Today's Lesson: The Supreme Ministry of Christ*

*Colossians 1:24-29: New International Version*

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup> I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Having introduced us in succession to the supremacy of Christ in creation (vv. 15-17), in the Church (v. 18), and in reconciliation (vv. 19- 23), Paul now gives us a supremely magnificent perspective on his resulting ministry.

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It is a remarkably balanced view which delineates four aspects of his own ministry: his ministerial attitude, his ministerial charge, his ministerial purpose, and his ministerial devotion.

It will be especially profitable for those who are in the professional ministry, but it ought to prove equally helpful for every serious believer, because we are all called to the "ministry," whatever our stated vocation.

1. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 24)

- a. His suffering brought \_\_\_\_\_ to the Church.
- b. His suffering "filled up in my flesh \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to Christ's afflictions."

*(Romans 5:3, 1 Peter 4:13, Acts 5:41, Colossians 2:13, 14; 1:12-14, 19-22; Acts 9:4, 16, Daniel 3:25, Philippians 3:10)*

2. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 25-27)

- a. This charge has preaching as its main function, and specifically the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of scripture.

*(Isaiah 49:6; Romans 15:9-12, Ephesians 2:13-18, Ephesians 3:4-6)*

3. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 28)

- a. P \_\_\_\_\_
- b. A \_\_\_\_\_
- c. T \_\_\_\_\_

*(1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20, 23)*

4. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 29)

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## Discussion Guide:

**Icebreaker:** What are you thankful for this week?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Paul makes a striking claim in v. 24 when he says, “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you...” In what ways do we know the apostle Paul suffered? (Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 to help you answer.) How can he “rejoice” in his suffering?
2. In today’s world we expect people to rejoice in their accomplishments, their blessings, their peace, their health, and wealth. Paul’s rejoicing over his suffering jolts a worldview that values comfort and ease. Paul obviously did not view his suffering as a problem to be escaped, as we might. Nor did it give rise to resentment or hopelessness. What can we learn from Paul’s example when we are facing trials, hardships, or suffering of our own?
3. What does it mean to suffer with purpose? To what ends, or for what reason does Paul say he is suffering? For whom or for what would you be willing to suffer?
4. Following after the pattern of Jesus, Paul suffers well in his trials by remaining others focused: First and foremost, Paul struggled for the glory of God. Paul has been commissioned by God (v. 25), and he is proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ (v.28). Paul is not concerned with his own glory, or making a name for himself, but rather he suffers for the glory of God among the Gentiles (v.27). Secondly, Paul’s suffering is others focused because Paul toils, Paul

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struggles, for the sake of Christ's body, which is the church (v.24) for the purpose of *presenting mature believers* (v.28). Paul agonizes over bringing glory to God and for the good of others.

5. What does it mean to be “mature in Christ”? How does one become mature in Christ?
6. The end to which Paul is giving his life is the work of discipling. In his book, *Discipling*, pastor and author Mark Dever says,

*“At the heart of Christianity is God’s desire for a people to display his character. They do this through their obedience to his Word in their relationships with him and with each other. Therefore, he sent his Son to call out a people to follow him. And part of following the Son is calling still more to follow the Son. Together they demonstrate God’s own love, holiness, and oneness.*”

Are you making disciples? If so, what does that look like? If not, what is stopping you?

**CHALLENGE:** What is one “a-ha” moment you had in our group discussion today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week’s message, how would the next week be different for you?

**SERVE:** How is God calling us to live out this lesson this week? As individuals? As a group?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [myspbc.org](http://myspbc.org). You can also connect with us on social media at [facebook.com/myspbc](https://www.facebook.com/myspbc), [instagram.com/myspbc](https://www.instagram.com/myspbc) and [twitter.com/MySPBC\\_online](https://twitter.com/MySPBC_online). Turn on your notifications.

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.