

What Ministers of Christ Look Like – Part 1

Sermon Series: Colossians: Under Pressure

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Last Sunday, we found Paul giving a strong, full-throated defense that Jesus, is Lord! Jesus is the Creator and the Creation-sustaining power! He is the Head of the New Kingdom people, the Church.

He next launches into an answer to a very pressing question:
Why should you folks listen to me?

- **Ministers rejoice when their work produces _____**

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. Colossians 1:24

Examples of Paul's Suffering Because of Christ:

Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 2 Corinthians 11:24-27

Remember what Jesus said of those who suffer BECAUSE of His Name?

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:10-11

- **Ministers are _____ to proclaim God's Mystery.**

I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷To 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.

Colossians 1:25-27

- **Ministers strenuously _____ Christ.**

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.** ²⁹To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:28-29

Conclusion: Who is a Minister?

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org