

“His Working”
Colossians 1:28-29

Introductions:

1. Do You Remember:
 - The Time In Your Life When:
 - You Had To **Wait** To Hear Some News?
 - Today - It's A Lot Different - Isn't It?
 - Because Information Is Instantaneous!
 - You Don't Have To **Wait** Anymore To Hear News!
 - You Don't Have To Wait:
 - For Personal News - Because:
 - Social Media Connects You With All Of Your Family & Friends:
 - You Can Hear From Them / About Them In An Instant!
 - You Don't Have To Wait:
 - For National News - Because:
 - “The News” - Whether On TV Or Radio - Continuously Streams What's Going On 24 / 7 - And All You Have To Do Is Tune In!
 - You Don't Even Have To Wait:
 - For World News - Because:
 - Our Connection To The World Has Become As Close As The People Next Door Through The Internet!
 - And We Even Have Access To All Of This News & Information:
 - The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly:
 - In The Palm Of Our Hands!
- We Are Connected To People Today:
 - In Such A Way - That You Don't Have To:
 - Wait Very Long To Hear **Any** Kind Of News!
 - And Its Becoming A Little Harder To Understand What We Are Told In Proverbs 25:25
 - “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country!”
2. But No Matter How Quickly & Easily:
 - It Is To Get News Today:
 - We All Still Like To Hear **Good** News!
 - And We Still Like To **Share** Good News!
 - And The Apostle Paul Was No Different:
 - Especially In That Time Of “Slow News!”
 - So - As We Continue Our Series Through:
 - Paul's Letter To The Colossians This Morning:
 - Please Turn There With Me In Your Bibles:
 - Colossians 1:28-29 - Where We First Read These Words: “Whom We Preach!”
 - And With These Words:
 - Paul Reminds Us Once Again Of The Good News:
 - About “Christ” That He Mentioned In The Previous Verse!
 - The Great & Glorious Treasure We Have, As Christians, In Him!
 - End Of 1:27 - “Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!”
3. This Was The Good News - That Was:
 - Concealed In The Old Testament:
 - In The Form Of A Mystery:
 - But Has Now Been Revealed In The New Testament:
 - In All Of Its Glory & Beauty!
 - “Christ In You, The Hope Of Glory!”
 - And This Became The Single Theme:
 - For Paul's Life & Ministry!
 - Jesus Christ Really Did Have:
 - “The Preeminence!”
 - It Was:
 - “Him First, Him Last, Him Midst!” (Eadie)
 - And “Him Most!”

- And Paul Wanted To Tell Everyone He Could This “Good News” - This Gospel!

4. And As Paul Is Telling That Ancient Colossian Church:
 - More About His Ministry - He Was - At The Same Time:
 - Showing What Our Own Christian Lives & Ministries Should Be Like!
 - The Word Translated “Preach” Means To Announce Or Declare Something - And Does Not Describe Only What A Pastor / Preacher Does!
 - It Describes What All Of Us Should Be Doing!
 - Like Paul - We Should Not Be Able To Contain Ourselves In Sharing With Others The “Good News” That We Know About Christ!
 - “Whom We Preach” Is What We Should All Be Engaged In!
 - And In The Last Two Verses Of This Chapter:
 - Paul Gives Us 3 Reasons Why!

* The First Reason For Sharing & Serving Christ Is:

1. *We Have A Great Opportunity!*

- Which Paul Reminds Us Of In The First Part Of:
 - 1:28 - “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom!”
 - The Key Phrase Of 1:28 Is:
 - “Every Man!”
 - It Is Used 3 Times In This One Verse!
 - “Warning Every Man!”
 - “Teaching Every Man!”
 - “Presenting Every Man!”
 - “Every Man” & “Every Person” Describes:
 - The Great Opportunity We Have:
 - To Share & To Serve Christ!
 - And Since We Have Such “Great News” To Share, We Need To “Make Use Of Every Opportunity” The Lord Gives Us! (H)
 - Because When We Have The Opportunity:
 - We Need To:
- Present Christ Persuasively!
 - There Are Two Ways Given In This Verse:
 - In Which We Present Christ To Others!
 - Through “Warning” & Through “Teaching!”
 - “Warning Every Man” Means:
 - To Address Men’s Hearts!
 - It Is Used To Awaken People:
 - With The Truth About God & The Truth About Themselves!
 - It Is Often Used:
 - To Tear Down The Pride Of Men:
 - So That There Can Be True Repentance Of Sin!
 - “Teaching Every Man” Means:
 - To Address Men’s Minds!
 - It Is Used To Enliven People:
 - With The Truth About Jesus & The Gospel!
 - It Is Used To:
 - Build Up The Faith Of Men:
 - In Jesus Christ Alone!
 - These Two Ways Of Presenting The Gospel:
 - Are Really Two Sides Of The Same Coin!
 - And Shows Us How We Ought To Persuade “All Men” About The “Riches Of The Glory” Of The Gospel!
 - But - I Think There’s Another Lesson:
 - In These Words For Us As Well!
 - Because - “The Best Teachers Are Students Themselves!”
 - That Is - The More A Teacher Learns, The More A Teacher Has To Share!
 - This Is True For You!

- “The Best Teachers Of Christ Are Students Of Christ Themselves!”
 - This Means That We Need To Be Warned & Taught Ourselves - So That We Can Present Christ Persuasively!
 - And There Really Is So Much More For Us To Learn & Know About Our Savior!
- Even The Apostle Paul Wrote:
 - In Philippians 3:10 - “That I May Know Him!”
 - This Was The Aim & Aspiration Of His Life!
 - To Know Christ!
 - And If This Was Paul’s Life-Long Desire - Shouldn’t It Be Yours?
 - Are You Teachable?
 - What Might You Be Missing?
 - The More You Know Christ:
 - The More Persuasive You Can Be:
 - In Presenting Christ At Every Opportunity With “Every Man!”
 - But We Also Need To:
- Present Christ Prudently!
 - Paul Continues In 1:28 - And Says:
 - “In All Wisdom!”
 - This Describes **How** We Are To Present Christ!
 - As One Writer Put It - We Must “Use The Best Means To Reach The Highest Goal!”
 - This Means That We Need To Learn:
 - To Present Christ:
 - With Sensitivity!
 - Knowing What Is Best & Right!
 - Best & Right Times & Places & People & Words!
 - This Also Means That We Need To Learn:
 - To Present Christ:
 - With Skilfulness!
 - Being Able To Use The Word Of God To “Warn” & To “Teach” Others More & More Effectively!
 - But Through It All:
 - We Also Need To Depend On:
 - The Holy Spirit - Who Is “The Spirit Of Wisdom!”
 - And So - God Has Given Us:
 - All The Tools We Need:
 - In Order To Take Advantage Of Every Opportunity To Present Christ To Others!
 - And To Do So:
 - Persuasively & Prudently!
 - Are These Tools In Your Ministry Tool-Belt?
 - The Truth Is - The More You Know:
 - About Christ - The More You Will Want To:
 - Present Christ!
 - As The Greatest Treasure Of This World!

* The Second Reason For Sharing & Serving Christ Is:

2. *We Have A Great Objective!*

- Which We Find In The Second Part Of:
 - 1:28 - “That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus!”
 - What A Lofty Goal & Objective Paul Had!
 - But It Wasn’t Just His Objective!
 - It Is The Lord’s!
 - Remember Back In:
 - 1:21-22 - “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled / In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight!”
 - The Great Objective Of Christ Was & Still Is To:

- “Present You Holy & Unblameable & Unreproveable In His Sight!”
 - Doesn’t That Describe Perfection?
- Well - That Great Objective Of Christ:
 - Became Paul’s Great Objective As Well!
 - 1:28 - “That We May Present Every Man Perfect In Christ Jesus!”
- This Shows That Christians Have The Same Objective As Christ! We Need To:
- Share In Christ’s Own Purpose!
 - “To Present!”
 - You See - There Will Come A Time When:
 - Every Man & Woman & Child:
 - Will Meet God Face To Face!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ!”
 - And In A Special Way:
 - The Work Of Christ:
 - Becomes The Work Of Christians!
 - To Prepare Each Other For That Day Of Presentation Before The Lord In Heaven!
 - Do You Recognize Your Own Responsibility:
 - In This? God Has Put Certain People:
 - In Your Life - That You Have The Opportunity To Influence For Christ!
 - Your Husband / Wife / Children / Family / Neighbors / Coworkers!
 - Has Christ’s Own Purpose:
 - Become Your Purpose?
 - “To Present Every Man Perfect” In Him?
 - When Jesus Came - He Came:
 - “To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!”
 - And The “Mystery” Of The Gospel Was That The “Lost” Included Both Jews & Gentiles!
 - We Need To Have That Same Objective!
 - And Present Christ To “Every Man” - So That:
 - “Every Man” Can One Day Be:
 - Presented Back To Christ!
 - No Matter What Their Present:
 - Character Or Creed!
 - Race Or Lineage!
 - Color Or Language!
 - Class Or Station!
 - We Also Need To:
- Share In Christ’s Own Perfection!
 - “To Present . . . Perfect In Christ Jesus!”
 - Or -1:22 - “Present You Holy & Unblameable & Unreproveable In His Sight!”
 - This Describes A Fulness & Maturity Of Character That Is A Reflection Of Jesus Himself!
 - If You Want To See:
 - What Christian Maturity Looks Like:
 - Then - Look *At* Christ!
 - If You Want To Experience:
 - What Christian Maturity Will Be Like:
 - Then - Look *To* Christ!
 - But This Christ-Like Perfection:
 - Is Not Only To Be The Aim For Ourselves:
 - This Ought To Be Our Aim For Others As Well!
 - We Have A Great & A Serious Objective! So - We Need To:
- Share In Christ’s Own Passion:
 - Paul Adds In 1:29:
 - “Whereunto I Also Labor, Striving!”
 - As Jesus “Labored” For Paul, So Paul “Labored” For Others!

- He Was Active:
 - And Fervent In His Ministry!
 - Can These Words Describe Your Desire To Serve & To Share The Lord?
 - All Too Often:
 - We Live Our Christian Lives:
 - In A Way That Just “Gets Us By!”
 - Instead Of The Most:
 - The Lord Gets Our Least!
 - Instead Of The Best:
 - The Lord Gets Our Worst!
 - But - When We Remember Just How Precious:
 - Christ Is To Us & To Others:
 - Any Effort & Any Labor Expended For The Lord & His Service:
 - Will Be Worth It All!
 - As Christians:
 - We Have A Great Opportunity
 - And We Have A Great Objective!
 - And Yet - Sometimes We Wonder:
 - “Who Is Sufficient For These Things?” (2 Corinthians 2:16)
 - Well:
- That Leads Us To Even A Third Reason For Sharing & Serving Christ - And That Is:
- 3. *We Have A Great Operation!***
- Which We Find In:
 - 1:29 - “Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily!”
 - You See - Paul Knew That In Spite Of The Great Opportunities & The Great Objective:
 - In Serving Christ:
 - He Couldn’t Do Anything Apart From The Lord!
 - Paul Recognized That Jesus:
 - Was The Very Source:
 - Of His Strength & Ability To Serve!
 - And The Same Is True For You!
 - You Are Not Sufficient For These Opportunities! You Are Not Enough For This Great Objective!
 - You Can Only Work For Christ When Christ Is Working In You!
 - It Is All - “According To His Working!” (1:29)
 - Christ’s Working!
 - The Ongoing Operation Of His Life And Power In This World!
 - And His Work - That Is - Christ’s Work - Is:
 - A Personal Work!
 - One Thing We Need To Recognize & Believe As Christians:
 - Is That Not Only Is Christ With You & In You:
 - But That Christ Himself Is Personally Working In & Through You!
 - This Is Not Talking About:
 - His General Work In This World:
 - Through His Providence - As The Creator & Controller Of All Things!
 - This Is Talking About:
 - His Special & Personal Work:
 - In & Through His Body - His Church:
 - Through Me & Through You!
 - Remember What Philippians 2:13 Tells Us?
 - “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure!”
 - This Means That Anything Good That Goes On In Your Mind Or Heart Or Will:
 - Comes From God! Christ Himself Is Personally & Actively At Working In You!
 - Whenever You Think About Or Desire Or Choose Or Actually Do:
 - That Pleases God:

- It Is All Done - “According To His Working” - In You!
- It Is Part Of Christ’s Own Personal Work! And It Is Also:
- A Powerful Work!
 - “Which Worketh In Me Mightly!”
 - Whenever You Feel Inadequate:
 - For The Great Opportunities & The Great Objective You Have:
 - And Feel Like You Can’t Measure Up! You Can’t Do It!
 - That’s True! You Can’t! But Christ Can & Will & Does!
 - The Power & Strength Of Christ:
 - Is Limitless!
 - And When You Serve Him:
 - “According To His Working” And The Operation Of His Own Power:
 - You Will Find That:
 - He Still Does All Things Well!
- Now - His Work:
 - May Look Different:
 - Because He Works Through:
 - Different People & At Different Places & In Different Times & In Different Ways!
 - But All Of His Work Is Done:
 - According To His Own:
 - Divine Resurrection Power!
 - And We Need To Believe This & Keep Going To The Lord For This!

Conclusion:

1. So - Let Us Remember Today That:
 - As Christians - We Have Been Given:
 - A Great Opportunity!
 - To Serve & Share Christ - The Best News In All The World:
 - To “Every Man!”
 - We Have Also Been Given:
 - A Great Objective!
 - To Share In Christ’s Own Work:
 - To “Present Every Man Perfect” In Him!
 - But We Have Also Been Given:
 - A Great Operation!
 - That Is - Christ’s Own Mighty Power:
 - That Will Accomplish His Work:
 - Through Us!
2. So - **Rely On Christ:**
 - As You Serve Him:
 - And Share Him:
 - To “Every Man” - Every Person:
 - God Has Placed In Your Life!
 - 1:28-29 - “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: / Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily!”

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