

Colossians 1:23-25
9/6/2020
Our lives are for the body

Open your Bibles, please to Colossians chapter 1..... I will read from verse 23 through chapter 2 verse 5. We won't be able to cover all of this section, but I think it should be read together.

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Paul's Ministry to the Church

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, ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

2 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, ² 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, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ 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.

Now the reason I think this should be read together is in this entire section, Paul is talking about his apostolic ministry. It is interesting as you study a passage of Scripture how the pronouns help you understand some of the transitions in thought. We already noticed that beginning in verse 15 through verse 20 that the main subject is obviously Christ..... Paul made it very clear that Jesus is God and is sufficient and preeminent in all things.

Remember, we saw the pronoun "Him" throughout this section, "He is," and "by Him," and "through Him and for Him and to Him...."

Then in verse 21, there was a big shift and we saw it in the pronoun "YOU." Paul was taking all the truth taught in the first 20 verses and bringing it home, so to speak..... bringing to the hearts of the Colossian believers.... he states in verse 21, "And you who were once alienated from God, hostile to God, and doing evil deeds against God"..... "And you" have been reconciled to God, made holy, blameless, above reproach through putting your faith in Christ death and resurrection..... This change from talking about who Christ was and what He had

done in general to what He had done specifically to these believers was evident because of the pronoun..... "you."

Well, in verse 23, there is another change in pronoun.....Paul is making another transition..... this time, he has moved from talking directly to the believers, to now talking about himself, his ministry, his calling, and his teaching.....And you see this in the pronoun "I" from verse 23 all the way to chapter 2 verse 5; and he does not use the word "I" again until chapter 4 verse 3.....

Now, Paul does not like to talk about himself..... but, in II Corinthians and in the book of Galatians, he spends some time defending his ministry, not because he wants to, but because he has to..... but, he was not about self promotion, he was about promoting Christ.....

And, I think part of the reason why Paul is talking about his ministry here is because he has never met these believers in Colossae. If you remember, it was his friend Epaphras, mentioned in chapter 1 verse 7 who had brought the gospel to this city, and notice chapter 2 verse 1

"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,¹"

The fact they do not know Paul on a personal level, that they had never seen his face may be part of the reason he is giving a short bio of his ministry.....

And, what I want to point out today, as we only get through a few verses is first Paul's calling to the ministry, 2nd His suffering for the ministry, 3rd, His stewardship of the ministry, and 4th his message throughout His ministry.....And, though this is biographical, and applies mostly to Paul, we will close by demonstrating that all believers are called to minister to those in the body of Christ.

Paul begins in verse 23 declaring that he became a minister of the gospel.....here, he uses the word became.... Elsewhere he used the word called or chosen to be a minister of the gospel... and if you are not familiar with his story, it will be good to examine it.... And, if you are familiar, then it is good for review....

Turn with to Acts 7, and I just want you to see that when Stephen was stoned, that Paul, here is called Saul, his name was changed to Paul later.... Here, when Stephen was stoned, notice Paul was there, approving of the stoning because he was there keeping an eye on everyone coat..... Acts 7 verse 57

"But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him (that is Stephen).⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.²"

1 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

2 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ac 7:57–58). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

I have never stoned anyone, but obviously, to have the full force of throwing stones, you need to take off your big coat, or your outer cloak or garment.... And they had to be laid somewhere..... and Paul was making sure that he cared for the coats of those who stoned Stephen to death...

then, if you jump down to chapter 8 verse 1, notice,

“And Saul approved of his execution.” **Then jump down to verse 3....**

³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison³”

So, Paul agreed with Stephen being stoned, and he went out afterward persecuting the church, doing all he could to destroy it.... How does a man like Paul become a minister of the gospel? How does someone who hates Christ, and hates His followers ever come to the place where he is telling others that they must believe in the very One he was trying to get believers to deny?

In chapter 9 Paul’s work against the church continued.....verse 1, he is breathing threats against Christians.... And in verse 2, he now has permission from the chief priests to throw any Christians in prison.....

This is how Paul lived.....until the day came when, when Jesus called Paul to Himself.....the day came when God regenerated Paul’s hard, stony heart and gave him a heart of flesh....and Paul repented, and believed the good news about Jesus....

Now, we already went over the doctrine of election or of God choosing men and women who are his enemies to come in to His kingdom..... and this is exactly what happened to Paul. Notice verse 3:

“Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting⁴”

You can read the entire chapter for your homework.... But on this day, Paul went from a person who was persecuting Christians, to a person who was brought into God’s family and sent out to preach the gospel.... It is here in Acts 9 where Paul became a minister.... And he became a minister because of God’s divine calling....

In chapter 9 verse 15, God told a believer named Ananias to talk to Paul about what happened to Him.. Verse 15 states, “But the Lord said to him (Ananias), “Go, for he is a chosen

3 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ac 8:1–3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

4 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ac 9:3–5). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.
¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”⁵

This is how Paul became a minister of the gospel..... at the moment of His conversion, he was also called to preach God’s Word... and He was going to suffer for being a Christian believer.....In fact, turn over to Galatians 1 and hear Paul’s testimony for yourself.

Galatians 1:11-16.... this is Paul speaking about what happened when Jesus met him on the Damascus road....

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. ¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I⁶

This is truly amazing, isn’t it? “Set me apart before I was born...” Isn’t that what we understood from Ephesians 1 and I Peter 1 that God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world?

Now quite honestly, as a side note, this is a clear passage demonstrating our depravity and God's electing grace.....Paul is clearly alienated, hostile, and doing evil works..... and in God's grace and mercy, Jesus calls him to be His own; Paul was not looking for Christ, he was not seeking Christ..... he was dead in His sin.....

and, Acts 9 verse 15 states, "He is a **chosen** instrument of mine." And Galatians 1, he was set apart He was set apart from His mother’s womb.....Paul did not volunteer..... he was drafted..... And, now, he would no longer will he be following the prince and power of the air.....He is Christ's chosen instrument..... and his calling is specific.....He will carry the name of Christ to the Gentiles first and foremost, he will also preach to kings and Jews..... and, he will suffer for the sake of the name he is proclaiming....and when you read through the book of Acts, you see that Paul fulfilled every bit of this ministry.....

Now back to Colossians 1..... he states in verse 23 and 25 that he a minister..... which is the same word used for deacon and it means to serve or render service or be a servant..... Though he is talking about himself or his ministry, he is not painting a picture that he is above the Colossians or greater than they are or on a different level than they are..... Obviously they knew he was an apostle.....but instead of playing his apostle card, instead of stating that He is

5 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ac 9:15–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

6 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ga 1:11–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

the big cheese..... he is declaring that he became, he was called to be, he was chosen to be a servant.....

He really is following in the life, example, and footsteps of Jesus who came, not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many....And, isn't this the calling of every believer? Isn't greatness in the kingdom of God related to our service instead of being served?

This word minister, is the same word used for deacon, but you do not need a title to serve others in the body of Christ. You just have to be aware of the needs of those around you.....

So Paul's ministry and calling was one of service.... Notice, secondly, it was also a ministry of suffering.

He was not striving to have his best life now.... His ministry was not one of health, wealth and prosperity..... His ministry was not one of rest, leisure, and recreation....He states in verse 24 that his ministry was one of suffering, one of affliction and it was for the sake of the church.

In a day when we see pastors and Christian leaders get rich and wealthy off of the flock of God, this is unheard of, isn't it? Paul became a minister of the gospel and as a minister of the gospel, he suffered...

Now, let me encourage you not to be alarmed by the phrase, "filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions." We know that there was nothing lacking in what Christ did to reconcile us to God when he suffered and died.....Paul did not add to this because when Christ died, IT WAS FINISHED!

But, remember, Christ is the cornerstone of the church..... the apostles are the foundation on which the church is built upon.....Christ began the work, commissioned the apostles, and they all lived a life of suffering and affliction and martyrdom or exile..... and their lives and their sufferings were a benefit to the body of Christ..... this is what Paul means by filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.....nothing lacked in Christ suffering for our salvation..... but Paul's sufferings would continue the work in the church that Christ started.....

In Verse 24 Paul states, "I am suffering for your sake..... and I am suffering afflictions for the sake of His body, the church."

We don't have to turn there, but we know about his sufferings from multiple sections of Scripture..... In II Corinthians 11, he states that 5 times he received 40 lashes from the Jews..... he was beaten times without number..... 3 times with rods, once he was shipwrecked, a night and day he spent in the deep..... he was often hungry, often exposed.....often thirsty and had many sleepless nights..... and apart from all the physical difficulty, he was in constant concern for the churches.....

If you turn back a few pages to Philippians chapter 1, let me read to you how Paul's imprisonment benefited some of these 1st century believers..... and how the suffering of being chained completed an area of weakness in the church.....Philippians 1:12

"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ⁷"

Isn't that interesting..... that a group of believers who lacked courage, who lacked confidence, who may have been ashamed of the gospel..... are now much more bold simply because they saw what Paul was going through as he is chained to a Roman soldier.....and when Paul saw their new found boldness, their new found confidence in sharing their faith.....he rejoiced and he was grateful that his sufferings were for the sake of, were for the benefit of the church.

Please turn to II Corinthians 1 verse 3..... there is another way Paul's sufferings benefited the body of Christ..... let me read it to you beginning in verse 3 of II Corinthians 1.....

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort."

Beloved there are things we go through that are for the sole benefit of others....look at verse 4 again...."who comforts us in all our affliction, so that WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE IN ANY AFFLICTION, WITH THE COMFORT WITH WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE COMFORTED BY GOD."

This is called body life..... call it a class in Body Life 101.....When you go through something that is grave, that is difficult, that is painful, that is devastating.....there is a divine purpose in it..... if you read on a little further in the passage, you would see that the suffering Paul is talking about here is..... that he and his companions thought they were going to die..... we don't know why..... he doesn't reference a shipwreck or a mob or an illness..... but they were burdened beyond their strength..... and they despaired, even of life.;.....and God delivered them..... and God comforted them.....and it removed all of their self-reliance.....according to verse 9..... and gave them renewed hope in verse 10.....

And, like Paul, when you go through this kind of despair.....and God meets you where you are..... in your tears, in your heartache, in your brokenness..... and he comforts you by His spirit, at times through His Word, and at times through other believers..... the comfort you receive is designed for you to eventually comfort others in the church.... Comfort and minister to those who are in this building.....

⁷ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2001). (Php 1:12–14). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

even in the dark times, your life is not spinning out of control..... If you are a Christian believer this morning, God takes you through things, takes you through suffering and affliction in order to ultimately build and strengthen other believers.....build and strengthen His church

what this means is you need to have close enough relationships with others in the church so that they know you are in this kind of despair.....so those who have been down that path can comfort you.....I wonder if you have any relationship in this church that you share your despair with..... or do others share their despair with you?

Isn't it amazing that according to verse 8, that the apostle Paul did not want the brothers to be unaware..... he wanted them to know that they despaired even of life.....he wanted them to know the pain and difficulty he was having because of what he was going through... He was open about his struggles

and I have a strong feeling that most of us in here miss out on two things because of the kind of **"isolated, I can handle it on my own, kind of, I don't need anybody..... I don't want to be a bother to any body** lives we live..... One, we miss out on God using the body to comfort us..... and, two, we miss out on being able to comfort others.....

We are so independent.....and so proud.....so afraid to admit our despair....now, admittedly, there are some in the church who have attempted to be open about some of their struggles, and they have been judged, misunderstood, given cliché's answers to get over whatever it is they are wrestling through.....

and you might be listening to me saying, "the last time I was open about a struggle, First, I was rebuked for not trusting God..... then, my personal struggle was whispered around the church and I became a laughing stock." And, to you, I say, "I am really sorry....." That would make anyone gun shy to be open about anything....and it may take awhile to become open again...

As a church, we need to be able to share our burdens safely, and others need to bear them and enter into our difficulty with confidentiality

Paul was very aware that he suffered for the sake of others..... Have you ever thought of your sufferings in that way? He actually goes even further and said "I rejoice in my sufferings **for your sake.**" Beloved, what this means is that your job loss, the death of a loved one, your chronic illness, the difficulty in your family, your prodigal child..... these are not random acts.....God uses your suffering and afflictions for His body, the church

and over time, when you see your sufferings from his perspective, and you begin sharing with others or being a comfort with others.....you will be able to rejoice.....

not with a big triumphalistic smile and "hallelujah, I have cancer..... or glory to God! my spouse died and went to heaven" mentality.....

rational people know that is just ridiculous.... Rather, there will be a settled understanding that God rules, God reigns, he knows and you can trust Him....did you notice I said **over time**.....sometimes, it takes a while to get there.....

I heard Alistair Begg say a while back that the loss of a loved one is like the amputation of an arm.....interesting that he used that as an illustration..... because if you had an arm amputated, you would never forget it.....it will always be there as a reminder of your loss.....and the older we get, the more people we lose, the more sufferings we will experience, and the more comfort we will need.....but, if we are not, as a church body establishing relationships prior to the coming difficulty, then, when it comes, we will not be open about it.... We need to be ready to give comfort, and ready to receive comfort....by working at building relationships, now.

My wife and I have said, "We did not sign up to be the parents of prodigals." But we have been and continue to be.....some of you had the chance to meet our son Zach and our daughter in law Emily..... Zach was a prodigal who God brought to Himself and back to us.... one of these visits, they might have the opportunity to tell you of their story of God's amazing grace

and if you have a prodigal son or daughter.... we can comfort you in your despair.....we can identify with the question like, "what did I do to cause it"..... the doubts about yourself.... doubts about God..... but we also can tell you about the comfort that we received from God.....through so many different avenues.....a sermon, a book, a person giving counsel, a phone call.....a listening ear.....the book of Psalms.... and we can sit with anyone who is going through this and we can weep with you and comfort you with the comfort we have been given by God.....

Some of you have suffered in other ways..... don't bury your sufferings in the abyss.....they are designed with a purpose in mind they are a mark of the designer..... he is marking you, molding you, making you into His image..... and your sufferings are designed first for you, to remove your self reliance..... then for others, so you might use the comfort you received to be a blessing to others in the body....

one of my desires for us as a church right now is that this kind of comfort begins to be more prominent....Some of the difficulty we have with this is related to the virus..... our interaction with one another is limited.....but the virus just heightens and exposes things that already existed.....

Let me ask you a question..... Apart from your immediately family, and apart from being at the church building.....how much interaction do you have with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace Fellowship Church in the course of a month.... Who really knows you and who do you know? Who do you share your burdens with and who bears your burdens? Who do you receive comfort from, and who comforts you here at the church you attend?

I long for day when more genuine interaction between more believers at Grace takes place during the week..... so we are not just spending our hour and 15 minutes together on Sunday,

hearing a sermon and singing a few songs and going home.... But actually getting to know one another outside our family circles and bearing each others burdens..... through a phone call, lunch, or having someone over.....and therefore fulfilling the law of Christ....

So that God can use your suffering to be a blessing to others as you get to know one another at a deeper level.....

No one can have deep friendships with everyone....but let me challenge you this morning to zero in on an individual you do not know very well and begin to pray for them....ask the Lord how you can minister to them.... And how they might minister to you.... And in His timing reach out....

Some have more outgoing personalities than others....Maybe a husband and wife can pray together....

My earnest prayer is that the sharing and bearing of each other's sufferings increases in the years ahead.....

But that is not the only part of Paul's life that is designed for others..... notice thirdly that Paul was given a stewardship that he declares in verse 25, that it was from God. And this stewardship, Paul states, "was given to me **for you...**"

Not only were Paul's sufferings and afflictions for those in the body of Christ..... his apostolic calling and his gifting was for the church as well..... This is what is meant by Paul's stewardship.....one commentator states:

"just as the steward of a great house might be entrusted by his master with responsibility of attending to the needs of his guests: (Paul is saying:) *I have become its (i.e. the church's) servant by the commission God gave me.*⁸

Paul suffered for the sake of the church..... but he also was given a stewardship, not for himself, mind you..... it was for the church, as well.....reminding us again, that the sufferings we experience are for the greater body of Christ, and so are our gifts, talents, and callings..... there are no lone ranger Christians..... it is an oxymoron to say you are a Christian but are not connected to a local church,.....not part of a local assembly..... not part of the body of Christ..

...

If you are a Believing Christian, you are part of the greater body of Christ, and if you are a member or faithful attender, you are here as part of this local body, Grace Fellowship Church.And, since you are here, God has given you a stewardship and wants you to use your gifts and talents to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ, just like Paul did.

8 Wright, N. T. (1986). [*Colossians and Philemon: an introduction and commentary*](#) (Vol. 12, p. 94). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Paul did this through preaching, teaching, and evangelizing....I do this through preaching, teaching pastoring; some have been stewarded with musical gifts, some with hospitality, some have gifts of serving, or giving or administration..... throughout this text, we cannot miss the overarching idea that our lives should be somehow ministering to others in the church.....either through burden sharing and bearing or through the gift and talents God has stewarded us with....

We are connected to one another.... We are a body with various parts, we are brothers and sisters in a family.... We are a building made up of different stones.....

And, even now, in the middle of these unusual times, ask yourself the question: How can God use me in the lives of others at Grace Fellowship Church? Your gifts and talents are given to you by God as a stewardship to serve His people the church..... For some of us, it starts by saying "Hello" to someone has been coming here for a while, and you have never taken the time to say hi.... A simple Hello to someone you don't know in a church of 60 can create all kinds of new avenues to serve one another.

Now, 4th and finally, the text tells us that the main part of Paul's stewardship was "to make the word of God fully known." This was his job, his assignment from God, if you will....and again, this was for the Colossians, for the church.....

It is quite amazing, isn't it? That Paul went from a persecutor of the church to a preacher in the church..... he really went from a terrorist to a theologian..... from someone who was dragging people into prison..... to someone who was declaring how they could be released from their prison of sin and guilt.....through the Word of God.....His stewardship was to make the Word of God fully known.....

And, this stewardship takes effort on his part, it takes time on his part, this takes study on his part, this take preparation on his part.....As a steward of the Word of God, he doesn't want to be lazy..... he doesn't want his master to find him sleeping.....He wants to follow the advice he gives to Timothy to study to show Himself approved unto God as a workman who does not have to be ashamed of his work..... It is hard work, disciplined work..... yet rewarding work.....

When Paul was saying a final farewell to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20, he confirmed that he had fulfilled this stewardship..... he states, "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." Beloved this is a labor.....and it is a stewardship that is given not just to the apostle Paul, but to any and every individual who is called to teach, preach, or pastor..... This is a big book..... about an infinite God..... that we will never exhaust, even if I preach here for 2 or 10 lifetimes..... we will never run out of material.....

This is one of the reasons we are adding a catechism to our morning service.... It just gives us one more way to continue to expose all of us to more and more of who god is from Scripture.....

no one is here this morning to hear my opinion.....and I would be doing a gross disservice to God and to you, if all I did was read a verse or two of Scripture and give my opinion..... and, quite honestly, if you were to get to really know me outside of the pulpit, my personal opinions are not that interesting.....

I am here to serve you by making the Word of God fully known or to preach the whole counsel of God..... as time goes on, you will notice that I will attempt to do two things from the pulpit.....one preach through books of the bible..... and two move around from the Old Testament to the New Testament.....and over time, preach from every genre of Scripture.....narrative, epistle, poetry or wisdom literature, law, prophecy.....

Part of making the word of God fully known is to preach from all of it's parts..... and as I have said before when we do this.... All roads lead to Christ....

the Law introduces us to Jesus,

the prophets predict Jesus,

the gospels reveal Jesus,

the Acts preach Jesus,

the Epistles explain Jesus and

the revelation anticipates Jesus....

When we preach the word of God, when we make the word of God fully known, we will be pointing back to Christ, discovering Christ, glorying in Christ over and over and over again..... we have already seen this in the book of Colossians and we have not even made it past chapter 1... and we are not going to look at it today, but notice what Paul means by making the word of God fully known in verse 28

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.⁹”

A pastor is not done until he is able to present every person in his care mature in Christ..... which means he is never done! There is always one coming from the rear who needs to grow, learn, mature..... and according to this verse, which we will look at more thoroughly next week, the way of maturity is through being in a church that is Christ focused, and there is both warning and teaching taking place on a regular basis..... we will come back to this

As I close, I can wrap this up by encouraging you again to understand that your calling, your sufferings, and what you have been stewarded is for others in the church.... But, I have already said enough on that....

9 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 1:28). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Let's not forget the reason why should want to live our lives for others in the church..... it is simply because he lived His life for us.....this is the foundation that Paul already laid in the book of Colossians and is what moves us to want to live

When you walk back what he already said, we are reminded in verse 12-14

qualified to share in an inheritance

He delivered us from darkness

transferred into a kingdom that we do not belong to

redeemed or purchased us

he forgave us

and if that is not enough, in verse 20, he reconciled us, made peace through dying on the cross; and though were alienated, hostile, and evil, he reconciled us and presents us to His Father and we are holy, blameless and above reproach before Him

not because we deserve it, or earned it or merited it.... But because of His mercy.....

So, since he redeemed us or bought or purchased us.... Since he reconciled us.... Since he made peace with us..... I want to follow Him.... I want to obey Him.... I want to do all I can to do all he asks me to do.....

this is why we are going to sing Jesus thank you

He is the lover of our soul and this is why we want to live for him

why we serve one another, suffer for the benefit of each other, and use what he has given us for one another.....