

- The word for toil is *kopiaō* = to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief) to labour with wearisome effort. It is the same work used in Matthew 11.28 -- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- Our strength is not our own
  - Judges 7 -- Gideon had to reduce his army
  - The Psalms - 18. 32, 39; 22.19; 28.7-8; 29.11; 46.1; 59.9; 68.35; 73.26; 81.1; 84.5; 118.14; 119.28
  - 2 Corinthians 12:9

### Conclusion

- Following Jesus means becoming a minister of the Gospel which is going to require:
  - Commitment
  - Conviction
  - Clarity
  - Confidence in Christ.

**Requisites for Gospel Ministry**  
**Colossians 1.24-29**  
**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## Introduction

- What is 'Gospel Ministry'? Why do we do it? What do we need to do it?
- Requisite = a thing that is \_\_\_\_\_ for the achievement of a specified end.
- What \_\_\_\_\_ does the church have in the dissemination of the Gospel?

## Main Points: Gospel ministry requires...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 24
  - Gospel ministry involves suffering and \_\_\_\_\_ - externally and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Paul makes the argument that he suffers for them because of what is at stake: the state of their eternal souls. And this is what we are called to as well
    - Philippians 1.29
    - Tim Keller, in his book, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*, writes: "Christianity teaches that, contra fatalism, suffering is overwhelming; contra Buddhism, suffering is real; contra karma, suffering is often unfair; but contra secularism, suffering is meaningful. There is a purpose to it, and if faced rightly, it can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine." (30)
2. An understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 25-26
  - The Church has been called to make Christ \_\_\_\_\_
    - "We should not restrict this phrase, as NIV seems to do, to the preaching of the 'whole counsel of God' (Acts 20:27, RSV). Nor is it a matter simply of 'making the word of God fully known', as RSV translates. 'The word of God' is, for Paul, a power let loose in the world, embodied in the true

appreciation of the doctrine of Christ is the best safeguard against most forms of heretical teaching..." FF Bruce, *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT p. 55

- gospel message (see 1:6). It must be allowed to have its full effect, to be 'fulfilled' in that sense."<sup>1</sup>
  - Until that day we are called to faithfully herald the good news of Jesus Christ, to know God and make him known at home and abroad for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - Acts 8.1-4; Psalm 96.3

3. \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 27-28
  - Paul's job, and ours, is to reveal the revelation: Jesus Christ came to save sinners, Jew and Gentile alike.
  - The NT references OT scriptures that proclaim salvation for the \_\_\_\_\_: Genesis 12.1-3; Deuteronomy 32.43; Psalm 117.1; Isaiah 11.10, 49.6, 55.5; Zechariah 8.22
  - The role of the church is to speak truth, to reveal the mystery that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ to the ancient question: how will God \_\_\_\_\_ the world?
  - In the same way that God revealed the secret meaning of dreams to Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel (Daniel 2, 4), God is using the Church to reveal the answer to our most desperate questions today.
    - Ephesians 3.8-11
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - v. 29
  - Even though Gospel ministry is \_\_\_\_\_, spiritually, emotionally, and even physically, we can do it.

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<sup>1</sup> Wright, N. T. (1986). *Colossians and Philemon: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 12, pp. 87–88). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.