



"Joy In Ministry"
Colossians 1:24 – 2:5
#4 in a series on Colossians
February 8, 2009
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The Reality Of Joyful Ministry.

1. In the process. (1:24; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-33)

2. In the outcome. (2:5)

The Reason For Joyful Ministry.

1. Stewardship from God. (1:25-28)

2. Suffering for Christ and His church. (1:24)

3. Strength from God. (1:29)

4. Struggle for other believers. (2:1-5)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. *Joy in ministry*— a goal, dream, reality? Read Colossians 1:24 - 2:5, refreshing the picture of Paul's joy in your own mind. Turn to 2 Corinthians 11 and read verses 23-33. Continual joy in ministry does not mean ignoring or denying real disappointment, loss and conflict. It is Christ's joy in us (see John 15:11). Thank God for His gift of joy and determine to grow in it.

Tuesday. Our part in experiencing Christ's joy in ministry involves recognizing that all our life and ministry is a stewardship from and for God. Read 1:25-28. A steward in Paul's day was a manager for/under the owner. List some of Paul's examples in 1:25-28. Then look at your life and ministry and identify specifics that line up with these, and your attitude toward them.

Wednesday. Paul was joyful in and because of his suffering for Christ and His church. Read 1:24 several times. Why do you think Paul rejoiced in his sufferings? As you think more about this, make two lists: (1) what rejoicing in suffering means, and (2) what rejoicing in suffering does not mean. We don't suffer for Christ and others as Paul did and as many believers in other places do. Why are we sometimes afraid of being misunderstood, criticized or ridiculed for our faith? Why don't we always find joy in suffering for Christ?

Thursday. All of Paul's ministry and joy flowed from God and His power. Read 1:29. This is a good verse to memorize. We also labor and strive. We also have the promise and reality of God's power working mightily within us. Praise God for this! Step out in confidence in God's power today.

Friday/Saturday. Paul had great joy in his struggle for other believers. Read 2:1-5. List the things in which he rejoiced. As you worship and work alongside others, make these things your focus— they will help you be joyful in serving others, and to be supportive rather than critical of them. As you prepare for our time together on Sunday, read 2:6-17.