

The Goal of Your Ministry

(Colossians 1:23-29)



Introduction

The Training Requirement

- 1** Genuine **Salvation**
- 2** Genuine **Sanctification**
- 3** Genuine **Selection**

The Training Environment

- 4** God's plan for the entire **Body**
- 5** God's plan for each **Believer**

The Training Commandment

- 6** The Old **Testament** (Deuteronomy 6)
- 7** The New **Testament** (Matthew 28)

The Training Movement

- 8** The Sovereign **Purpose** of God
- 9** The **Passion** of Christ
- 10** The **Plan** for the Church
- 11** The **Process** of Training the total person

The Training Commitment

- 12** The goal of training; every believer **complete in Christ**

- "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bond slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12).
- "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).
- "My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you" (Galatians 4:19).

1. The _____ of Ministry (vv. 23 & 25)

“²³ I, Paul, was made a minister. ²⁵ Of this church I was made a minister.”

- "I have appeared to you, to appoint you – a minister" (Acts 26:15).

- "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies" (1 Peter 4:10-11).

2. The _____ of Ministry (v. 24)

"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions."

Christ is done dealing with the sins of the world, but the world isn't done showing its sinful hatred of and rebellion to Christ.

- "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Philippians 1:29).

Suffering:

- Brings us nearer to Christ (Philippians 3:10)
- Brings us assurance of Salvation (1 Peter 4:14)
- Brings us future eternal reward (Romans 8:17-18)
- Results in the salvation of others (Philippians 2:17)
- Frustrates the enemy, Satan (Acts 9:16)

3. The _____ of Ministry (v. 25)

"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God"

4. The _____ of Ministry (vv. 26-27)

²⁶*that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,*
²⁷*to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"*

- "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

5. The _____ of Ministry (v. 28)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ"

- "Let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:4).
- "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

6. The _____ of Ministry (v.29)

"For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me to exhortation and teaching."

Are you in?

A. Are you in _____?

B. Are you in the _____?

C. Are you in _____?

D. Are you in _____?

E. Are you in _____?

APPLICATION

1. What is the goal of all parenting and discipleship?
2. How are the ministries of a pastor and a genuine believer the same? How are they different?
3. Why does suffering have to be a part of the life of a believer and their ministry to others? How do we prepare disciples for this?
4. Why is the exercise of spiritual giftedness considered a stewardship and what should that mean to every Christian's ministry?
5. What does it mean that Christ in you is the hope of glory? How should that affect your ministry to others?
6. What does it mean to be complete in Christ? How will you personally pursue becoming complete and how will you disciple others?
7. Why does ministry require exhausting labor? How can you depend on the power of Christ in strenuous ministry?

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