

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 26-27, 2003

Gerry Andersen

"The Church of Christ"

Colossians 1:24-29

1. The Church's Challenge (1:24)

a. Our disposition: To rejoice in suffering

b. Our contribution: To share in suffering

Christ's afflictions refer to the sufferings of the church, the body of Christ (cf. Acts 9:4). The word "afflictions" (THLIPSIS) is used in the New Testament to mean the trials in life, never the death of Christ. The context is service, not salvation. What is lacking is not in regard to the atonement of our sin, but in regard to fulfillment of the ministry of the church.

2. The Church's Character (1:25-27)

a. The church is developing

"Fully carry out" (PLEROSAI) has the sense of doing something to its completion.

The church, of which Paul was made a servant, has been entrusted with the Scripture and we are ministering the Word of God to accomplish its ultimate fulfillment.

b. The church is distinct

In the New Testament, a mystery (MUSTERION) is not something that is a puzzle to figure out, but is rather something that is hidden, unable to be known until the time when God reveals it.

c. The church is diverse

Believing Jews are joined with believing Gentiles into one entity, the body of Christ (Ephesians 2:11-16).

d. The church is the dwelling of God

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It is God's will to make Himself known among the Gentiles by dwelling in believers.

3. The Church's Commission (1:28-29)

The keywords in Colossians 1:28 are we and every.

a. The Charge: Proclaim Christ

b. The Correction: Admonish and teach

c. The Communication: Wisdom of Christ

d. The Culmination: Maturity in Christ

e. The Commitment: Labor for Christ