

## Authentic Service For Christ

Colossians 1:24—2:5

- 1) Service to Christ entails *suffering with Christ* (24a; cf. 1 Thess. 3:6-7)
  - a) Suffering results from serving others (cf. 2 Cor.11:23-28)
  - b) We partner with Christ when we suffer with Him
  - c) Trials related to our faith make us whole
  
- 2) Service to Christ entails *preaching the mystery of Christ* (25-28)
  - a) It's why we live on after conversion
  - b) Christ makes us His servants to benefit others
  - c) God's mystery (26-27a): *Gentiles & Jews are one in Christ*
  - d) We warn and encourage "every" person (28a)
  - e) God is growing us into maturity (28b)
  
- 3) Service to Christ entails *depending on Christ* (29)
  - a) We work diligently & meticulously
  - b) We rely on God's power, not our own
  
- 4) All Christians are called to the work of Christian service
  - a) If you are a Christian, *serve Christ faithfully*
    - i) Pastors get paid to equip the saints (1 Tim. 5:17-18)
    - ii) Laymen use their equipping for service (Eph. 4:12)
  - b) *Rejoice in sufferings*; they benefit us and others
  - c) *Preach God's word*, the mystery of Christ
  - d) *Work hard in service*; don't be a slacker