



August 14, 2005

The Passion for Service Colossians 1.24-29

“Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1.24-29

The apostle Paul was always overwhelmed by the realization that God would use him. He was amazed that the eternal God of the universe would call him to be his ambassador. I’m sure he felt that that was the most significant human endeavor he could embark upon.

What Paul was talking about was ministry. Ministry is just another word for service. Paul had a passion for ministry because he knew that it meant allowing God to use him for God’s glory. If we want to make a difference in people’s lives in this world, then we need to become passionate regarding ministry.

Core Competency: Giving Away My Time

I give away my time to fulfill God’s purposes.

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3.17

Do you want to be used of God? Do you want to make a difference in the lives of the people around you? I hope so. If you do, there are several conditions you must meet.

To be used of God...

1. YOU MUST BE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE.

“Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness.” Colossians 1.24-25

To be used of God...

2. YOU MUST FOCUS ON THE MAIN THING — CHRIST.

“The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him...” Colossians 1.26-28a

To be used of God...

3. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY.

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” Colossians 1.28

Finally, if you are to be used of God...

4. You Must Depend Upon His Power.

“To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1.29