

#purpose: serve

colossians 1:24-2:1

#purpose

4 key questions

1. who is God?
2. what is God doing/what are his purposes?
3. who are we?
4. what are we to do/what are our purposes?

#purpose

top 2 key questions

1. who is God?

-Jesus!

-image of the invisible God

-firstborn over creation

-creator, sustainer,

redeemer

-all the fullness of God

-head of the church

-firstborn from the dead

-supreme over all things

2. what does God do/what are his purposes?

-reconcile all

things by his death

& resurrection

Paul's response:

serve

#purpose

serving “opportunities”

- picking up someone else’s slack
- more optional
- less optional
- outcomes:
 - joy, obligation, self-righteousness, grumpies, boycotting
- goal: root & put life into serving

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colossians 1.24-2.1

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—

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colossians 1.24-2.1

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.

colossians 1.24-2.1

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.

I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

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colossians 1.24-2.1

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.

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paul's self-description

Now I rejoice in what was ***suffered*** for you...

...I have become its ***servant*** by the
commission God gave me...

Christ ***in you***, the hope of glory.

I labor, struggling with all ***his energy, which
so powerfully works in me.***

#purpose

what freed Jesus to serve

john 13:3-5

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so

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what freed Jesus to serve

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

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- abide:

Christ in you, the hope of glory... I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

- healthy serving springs from participation in larger life with Jesus

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- abide:
- praying what is true:
 - Jesus is Lord over all things
 - Jesus is in you & you are in him
 - from that place we participate in life-giving service

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- act & “examen”
- daily examen:
 - 5 minutes @ end of each day
 - walk through: morning, afternoon, evening
 - wherever met/partnered with the Lord: “thank you!”
 - wherever missed/sinned/stupid/served in own strength: forgiveness

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- boundary it:
- God says “no” to serve his larger “YES”
- Our boundaries are our “no” that serve a larger “yes”
 - “no” to burnout to have a “yes” to give
 - “no” to enabling serves “yes” to responsible, healthy life

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- called to serve in context of larger empowering life & story
- we're in Christ, he's in us: safest place in cosmos
- partner in family business: self-giving God who first served us

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