

Sunday, September 13, 2020—Colossians 1:29 Laboring & Striving According to God’s Working

Colossians 1:28

- **Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**
- **Whom we preach**—who is it that Paul is preaching in verse 28? It is Christ in verse 27. How is Paul preaching Christ in this context?
 - Romans 16:25—according to the revelation of the mystery. Therefore, Paul had an everyman ministry.
 - Colossians 1:23—Paul preached his gospel to “every creature under heaven.”
- **Warning every man**—deals with warning people of the judgement to come on account of their sin.
 - Romans 1:16-18: 3:9—the first thing Paul does in explaining the gospel of Christ is warn humanity that they are all under sin.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3
- **Teaching every man in all wisdom**—this is the second part of Paul’s preaching. This teaching is done in accordance with sound doctrine and the “wisdom of God in a mystery.”
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8
 - Ephesians 3:9-11
 - I Timothy 2:4
- **that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus**—here we see the purpose and the intent of Paul’s preaching. The verb translated “may present” is in the subjunctive mood. Paul’s goal is to present “every man perfect” or mature in Christ Jesus. This the goal that Paul is laboring to accomplish as verse 29 makes clear.

Colossians 1:29

- **Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.**
- The expression “I also labour” is in the present tense, active voice, and indicative mood which means that this the goal that Paul is laboring unto in the present while he is writing this epistle.
- Paul is “striving” to the end of “presenting very man perfect in Christ Jesus,” in verse 28 “according to” Christ’s working in him in verse 29. Paul has much to say about “labouring” and “striving” in his epistles.

- I Corinthians 15:10
- II Corinthians 5:9
- II Corinthians 6:5
- Philippians 2:16
- There are two important meanings of the English word “strive” that we need to consider. According to Noah Webster’s *American dictionary of the English Language*, the word strive can mean either of the following:
 - “To make efforts; to use exertions; to endeavor with earnestness; to labor hard; applicable to exertions of body or mind. A workman strives to perform his task before another; a student strives to excel his fellows in improvement.”
 - This definition is talking about exerting energy in the performance of a task. This is the meaning that Paul has in mind in Colossians 1:29. Paul is “labouring” and “striving” in terms of his preaching in verse 28 that he “may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”
 - Romans 15:20, 30
 - I Corinthians 9:25-27
 - II Timothy 2:5
 - “To contend; to contest; to struggle in opposition to another; to be in contention or dispute;”
 - This definition is dealing with being contentious and argumentative or arguing and disputing. This definition is more negative. This type of struggle or contest should not be indicative of the servant of the Lord.
 - II Timothy 2:14
 - II Timothy 2:24
- Colossians 1:29—Paul’s “striving” was not after the flesh but according to the power of Christ working in him. Christ did not give Paul an impossible task to accomplish without providing him with the power to accomplish it.
 - Ephesians 3:16, 20—Paul’s ability to discharge the dispensation of God that had been given to him was on account of God’s working in Paul’s life.
 - What things do we need to stop trying to control? What cares do we just need to cast upon the Lord? What burdens are we trying to carry alone? What things are you striving

after in the negative sense? What people and circumstances do you just need to turn over to God in prayer?

- Ephesians 6:19