

A HEART FOR SERVING
COLOSSIANS

What does it take to have the ministry impact on other's lives of an Apostle Paul?

These verses that so clearly show Paul's heart for ministry give to us a personal "check up" on our heart for ministry. There are 5 questions in this heart check.

Colossians 1:24

1. WHAT IS MY ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUFFERING?

"(Paul) is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name."

Acts 9:15-16 (NIV)

4 checkpoints in a healthy attitude towards suffering

I rejoice

For you

I fill up ... Christ's afflictions

For the sake of His body

Colossians 2:25-27

2. WHAT IS MY REASON FOR SUFFERING?

Paul was a servant by COMMISSION

- The commission was given by God
- The commission was to reveal a mystery

Colossians 2:28-29

3. HOW BIG IS MY VISION FOR PEOPLE?

Paul's vision is described in two words:

EVERYONE PERFECT

Notice 3 ways God expresses His wisdom through us

- PROCLAIM
- ADMONISH
- TEACH

4. WHAT IS MY SOURCE OF STRENGTH?

"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you." Galatians 4:19 (NIV)

How do I tap into HIS energy!!

When it's my work... I use MY energy.

When it's HIS work ... I use HIS energy.

So the crucial question is NOT..."How will I get more energy to get more done?"

The crucial question IS..."WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO TODAY?"

Colossians 3:1-7

5. HOW CLEAR IS MY PURPOSE FOR PEOPLE?

- Paul clearly wanted people to KNOW CHRIST

The word for struggle is "Agon" from which we get our word "agony"

QUESTION: How did Paul struggle for those in Colossae and Laodicea since he had never met them?

Look at the process in Paul's purpose

1. Encouraged in heart and **United in love**

SO THAT

2. They may have the full riches of **complete understanding**

IN ORDER THAT

3. They may **know Christ**

- Paul clearly wanted people to **REJECT FALSE TEACHING**
- Paul clearly wanted people to **LIVE BY GRACE**

In **HIM**... rooted and built up

By **FAITH** ... strengthened

With **THANKFULNESS** ... overflowing