

Friday

Read 2 Corinthians 11:2–4. How can someone be led astray from a “simple and pure devotion to Christ”?

What kinds of “other gospels” do churches sometimes preach?

Today simply focus on Christ; what He has done for you, in you, through you. Thank Him for this.

Saturday

Look over any devotions you may have missed. Read Colossians 4:7–18 in preparation for this weekend’s message. Pray for the services. Thanks!



PART 7

...FOR A PURPOSE

MARCH 17 & 18, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER
COLOSSIANS 1:28–29

What is the purpose of the body we call “the church”?

We proclaim Christ, teaching everyone and admonishing everyone with all wisdom so that we might present everyone mature in Christ. For this I labor, struggling with all His energy that so powerfully works in me.
Colossians 1:28–29

1. What’s our message?

We **proclaim Christ**... *Colossians 1:28a NIV*

_____, **not** _____

2. Who’s our target?

...teaching **everyone** and admonishing **everyone** with all wisdom so that we might present **everyone**... *Colossians 1:28b*

_____, **not just one group**



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
www.tlc.org

3. What's our goal?

...so that we may present everyone **mature** in Christ. *Colossians 1:28c NIV*

_____ **in Christ** (*See Colossians 3*)

4. Who does this?

...**admonishing** and **teaching** everyone with all wisdom... *Colossians 1:28*

...teach and admonish **one another** with all wisdom... *Colossians 3:16*

_____ **has a part to play!**
Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity**. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. *Colossians 4:5–6*

5. How do we do it?

To this end I labor, struggling with all **His energy**, which so **powerfully works in me**. *Colossians 1:29 NIV*

_____ **empowers us!**

The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message. *Colossians 1:27–28a The Message*

It starts in the _____!

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read the verses that come just before the verse we studied this weekend: Colossians 1:24–27. These are hard to understand, but remember the context: Paul's writing from prison. The Colossians may think their false teachers, not imprisoned and prosperous, have God's approval. Do people today sometimes equate a Christian leader's prosperity with God's approval of his ministry?

To counter that idea, Paul says he rejoices that he gets to suffer because of his ministry. After all, he reasons, Jesus also suffered. How is this different from most attitudes about suffering trials?

Thank God for those ministers who suffer because of their position. Pray for the pastors imprisoned all around the world. Ask God to help you see your own sufferings in a new light.

Tuesday

Reread Colossians 1:26–28. In a way, he means Jesus is the great surprise “plot twist” to God's dealings with humanity. How is this so?

Paul says he only preaches Christ, not extra religious secrets and requirements. What “extras” might preachers be tempted to add to this simple message?

How might you complicate the message?

Pray that you — and the whole church — will maintain a simple and pure devotion to Christ.

Wednesday

Read Colossians 1:28–29. Paul says his goal is to present everyone (a word he emphasizes three times in one sentence) mature in Christ. What implications do these two words — “everyone” and “mature” — have for our church?

Read Colossians 3 for a sketch of what it looks like to be mature in Christ. Where do you need to mature?

Ask God to help you mature in Christ, and to help you to help others!

Thursday

Read Colossians 4:5–6. How can we be wiser in the way we act toward outsiders?

How can you better make the most of “every opportunity”? What are some opportunities you may have in the next two weeks to invite people to Easter services?

What do you think it means to have your speech be “full of grace, seasoned with salt”?

Pray that God will open your eyes to opportunities to share Christ!



We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. *Colossians 1:28*