

FIRST AND FOREMOST: JESUS CHRIST

**A MINISTER'S CHOICES  
IN PROCLAIMING CHRIST**

Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

While in prison in Rome, Paul chose —

1. To Suffer in Joy for Colossian Believers — Colossians 1:24a
  - a. Following the teaching of Jesus Christ – John 15:20
  - b. Following the example of New Testament leaders – Acts 5:41
  - c. Following the Spirit of Jesus Christ — Hebrews 12:1-2
2. To Fill Up What Is Lacking — Colossians 1:24b
  - a. God decrees believers will suffer – Philippians 1:29-30
  - b. For the Sake of the Church – 1 Corinthians 12:12
    - (1.) because the lie of Satan is always hostile to truth – 2 Corinthians 11:3, 14-15
    - (2.) because darkness is always hostile to the light – John 1:4-5
    - (3.) because evil deeds are always hostile to holiness – Colossians 1:21
    - (4.) because the natural bent for born-again believers is truth, light, and holiness – Revelation 6:9-11

3. To Fulfill God's Assignment for Him

a. The Job Description — Colossians 1:25a

(1.) Minister – *diakonos* = “to kick up dust,” as one running an errand; a servant

(2.) Stewardship – *oikonomia* = looking after another's affairs; management; administration

b. The Job Source — Colossians 1:25b

c. The Job Responsibility — Colossians 1:25c-29

4. To Struggle for Their Spiritual Encouragement, Order, and Firm Faith — Colossians 2:1-5

