**Maturing in Christ**

**Colossians 1:24-29 ESV**

24Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church, 25of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. 27To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28Him we proclaim, warning every-one & teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.

**An attitude needed to mature and to help others mature in Christ:**

**1)** A willingness to **suffer** afflictions for the sake of others v24

**24Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church**

 *Before Paul’s Damascus Rd conversion encounter, ‘Saul’ was “making Christ suffer” in the people he was persecuting. Christ’s first words to ‘Saul’ made that clear:* ***“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?****” (Acts 9:4)*

*Remember, immediately after Paul’s conversion, Jesus told Ananias (Acts 9:15)****“…for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name***

**Second attitude needed to mature and to help others mature in Christ:**

**2)** Accepting the responsibility to teach **all** of God’s Word v25

 **25of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was**

**given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known***Why is that??>>*

*1I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*  **2 Timothy 4:1-4**

**\*Why the Word of God and not just good books about the word of God? >>>**

 *12For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.* **Hebrews 4:12-13**

**Third attitude needed to mature and to help others mature in Christ:**

**3)** Humbly giving & receiving **warning** & **wisdom** about Jesus v28

**28Him we proclaim, warning everyone** **and teaching everyone with all wisdom,** **that we may present everyone mature in Christ**

**God’s goal for each believer*:* “For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son” Romans 8:29**

**Fourth attitude needed to mature and to help others mature in Christ:**

**4)** Help others only as you allow yourself to be **helped** by Christ v29

**29For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me**