**Charting Your Course for Christ**

Colossians 1:28-29

**Introduction**

If you ended up where you are headed right now, where would you be? It is important to purposefully live your life; to plan your direction and onward movement. You only have one life; one opportunity. What will you do with your life? There are two great dangers as you consider the course of your life: You could fail to chart or set your course, or you could chart your course for something or someone other than Christ. The verses we read in Colossians describe Paul’s course of life. He was a talented and brilliant man, who could have used his abilities anywhere. He was a man who once held a high position that he could have used for personal advantage. He was man with a tarnished past, and he could have excused himself from being able to serve. However, Paul charted his course to preach Christ. In this lesson, we will see why.

1. **Paul charted the course of his life to preach Christ.** 
   1. Preaching Christ is focused on the person of Jesus Christ.
      1. Everything Paul said was designed to promote the person of Jesus Christ. (“Whom we preach”)
         1. He did not come to promote himself. (2 Corinthians 4:5)
         2. He did not come to preach a list of rules they were to follow.
         3. He did not come with 7 habits or 12 steps.
         4. He did not come to teach principles for living.
         5. He did not come to preach his own ideas about life.
         6. He did not come to promote religious traditions and practices.
         7. He came to preach Christ.
      2. Paul helped them to see who they received when they received Christ: He is their King, Redeemer, God, Creator, Sustainer, Head, and Reconciler. (v. 13-20)
      3. Paul helped them to remember who they were before they were saved: They were alienated and enemies. (v. 21) He only brings assets to the relationship; we bring only liabilities.
      4. The glorious riches of the mystery that has been revealed is the fact that Christ indwells the believer!
      5. He was so convinced regarding the sufficiency of Christ, that Paul made Him the focus of his message. Preaching ought to be about Christ.
   2. Preaching Christ is a group effort that requires repeated action.
      1. We – 1st person plural
      2. Preach – to proclaim throughout; to tell abroad (present tense).
   3. Preaching Christ requires warning every man.
      1. Warning – (negative) to admonish; to advise as to the dangers that surround a person.
      2. Preaching helps set your mind in order. There are ways of thinking that would be dangerous for your life.
      3. Preaching helps those who are tempted to go astray or to get off course.
   4. Preaching Christ requires teaching every man in all wisdom.
      1. Teaching – (positive) to provide formal or informal instruction.
      2. Preaching Christ will teach you how to live.
      3. It will point you in the way of wisdom. If a person understands who Jesus is, they will see His wisdom and see what a fool they have been for living for such selfish purposes.
      4. You need someone to give you wisdom for living, to help you get your life untangled, and to sometimes go over and over a lesson.
   5. Preaching Christ is intended for every man, not for a select group.
      1. The message must go to each person individually.
      2. There must be care shown as a parent cares for each child. (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)
      3. In our church, we need to have a mentality that cares for the well-being of every man.
         1. If you interact with only a select few, you have not understood who Jesus is.
         2. If you avoid contact with certain types of people because you do not like them or it does not appear that they will help you, you do not have the right perspective.
         3. Understanding who Jesus is makes you want to be a missionary to every man.
   6. Preaching Christ requires effort.
      1. He labored for their spiritual growth; he worked hard and toiled to the point of exhaustion.
      2. He engaged in an intense battle on their behalf. “Striving” means to fight, struggle, contend; to agonize and strain every nerve; to make every effort.
      3. Paul put his energy into that which really mattered. Not social causes, feeding the hungry, political involvement, or religious fights—he put his energy in preaching Christ.
   7. Preaching Christ requires great reliance. God is mightily at work in proclaiming the gospel and effecting the spiritual growth of believers
   8. With all that in mind, why would Paul give himself to preaching Christ?

1. **Central Idea: Paul charted the course of his life to preach Christ because Christlikeness is God’s goal for every man.** 
   1. His goal is found in v. 28: “…that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”
   2. The most important day of your life is the day you stand before Christ.
2. Present – to stand beside; to bring before; to exhibit; to proffer.
3. Perfect – complete; whole-hearted devotion; mature; fully grown; grown up.
   1. He wanted to see every man fully grown in Jesus.
4. This is not a 13-week process. This is a lifelong process.
5. He knew they had made progress, but he did not stop until they were Christlike.
6. **You should chart your course for Christ because Christlikeness is God’s goal for every life.** 
   1. Chart your course to know Christ.
7. Listen to the preaching.
8. Take heed to the warnings. Receive the instruction.
9. Rely on the power of Christ to make you Christ-like.
   1. Chart your course to help others know Christ.
10. Care about every person.
11. Be willing to get involved in the messiness of life because God is willing.
12. Christ is sufficient to help every person.
13. Use your energy to help people know Christ.
14. Rely on the power of Christ.
    1. God’s goal is worthy of the focus of your entire life.
15. Is your life involved in this type of ministry? If not, you may be attending church, but you are not charting the same course as Paul.
16. Into what do you expend all your energy—relationships, possessions, sports, career? I wonder if the reason we are so wrapped up in all these things is because we have lost sight of who Christ is. We need to bring our affection back to where it belongs. We get off course when we get distracted. Then doubt and discouragement set in.
17. Is the goal presented in v. 28-29 the reason you are living? Does it represent your goal in parenting, your goal in your marriage, the reason you are enrolled in a school, or the reason you go to your job?
    1. It is the Person of Christ who is worthy of our attention.
18. It is a Person who wants to go with you through life.
19. It is a Person who is willing to take you in all your liabilities.
20. It is a Person who is willing to share with you all His riches.
21. It is a Person who can help you like none other.
22. It is a Person who is worthy of your praise.
23. It is a Person who has accepted you.
24. It is a Person who will change the way you think about life.
25. It is a Person who will teach you all wisdom for life.

**Conclusion**

Chart the course of your life for Christ. Let Him determine how you will live your day, your year, your life. Christlikeness is God’s goal for your life and for every life.