SERIES: BE COMPLETE
(A study in Colossians)
LESSON 4 – ONE MAN'S MINISTRY (Col.1:21-2:3)

Introduction: Paul explains his three ministries. False teachers in Colossae had been discrediting Paul and causing doubts in the people's minds. "He's a political prisoner. Can you trust him?" Paul paused in the first part of his letter to give some explanations. In this section Paul explains his three ministries.

I. ***SHARING*** THE GOSPEL (1:21-23)

- **A. Past *ALIENATION* (1:21a)**
  - **1. Estranged**
    - **a. Separated from the spiritual blessings of Israel**
  - **2. Enemies**
    - **a. Practices and attitudes**
- **B. Present *RECONCILIATION* (1:21b-22a}**
  - **1. God took the initiative**
- **C. Purpose of Reconciliation (v. 22b)**
  - **1. Personal Holiness**
    - **a. Unblameable**
    - **b. Unreproveable**
- **D. Future *GLORIFICATION* (1:23)**
  - **1. ".. the hope of the gospel"**

II. ***SUFFERING*** FOR THE GENTILES (24-27)

- **A. *REJOICING***
  - **1. Suffering to have Fellowship with Christ. (Phil.3:30)**
  - **2. Suffering for the gentiles. (24a)**
    - **a. Paul was a prisoner because of his love for the GENTILES.**
  - **3. Suffering for the Church (Christ's body). (v. 24c)**
- **B. *RESPONSIBILITY* (25-27)**
  - **1. Paul had been given a "stewardship". (v. 25)**
    - **a. Paul could not abandon his calling for personal safety and comfort.**
    - **b. Paul was to reveal a mystery (v. 26-27)**

1) He had to explain what the Old Testament prophets didn't understand.
2) He mystery is that today God is uniting Jews and Gentiles in the Church. (Eph.2:11-22)

III. ***STRIVING*** FOR THE SAINTS (1:28-2:3)

A. Paul Preached ***CHRIST*** (vs. 27-28a)
   1. False teachers exalted themselves.
B. Paul Preached Positive ***TRUTH*** (28b)
   1. He warned them.
C. Paul's ***INTENT***
   1. Make every man complete ("perfect") (v. 28c)
   2. Encouragement (2:2a)
   3. Endearment (2:2b)
      a. Mature Christians love the brethren.
      b. Enlightenment (2c)

CONCLUSIONS: Paul explained his ministry, silenced the enemies and won the hearts of the believers. We have a GOD GIVEN ministry, especially of witnessing. Are you fulfilling that ministry as well as other areas of service?