

Colossians 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

Analysis

Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God. Paul describes his apostolic calling using diakonos (διάκονος, "servant/minister"), the same word for deacons, emphasizing service over status. His ministry flows from divine appointment—"the dispensation of God" (tēn oikonomian tou theou, τὴν οἰκονομίαν τοῦ θεοῦ), literally "stewardship" or "management responsibility."

God entrusted Paul with specific responsibility "for you"—ministry to Gentiles. This wasn't Paul's choice but divine assignment (Acts 9:15; Galatians 2:7-8). Stewards don't own what they manage; they're accountable to the Owner. Paul managed God's revelation, faithfully delivering it unchanged to recipients. This counters any claim of private interpretation or progressive revelation improving on apostolic teaching.

"To fulfil the word of God" (plērōsai ton logon tou theou, πληρῶσαι τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ) means completing or bringing to fullness. Paul's ministry filled out God's revelation by explaining how Gentiles share equal status with Jews in Christ—the mystery revealed in verse 26-27. His apostolic teaching completed the deposit of faith "once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Historical Context

Paul's Gentile mission was controversial in early Christianity. Jerusalem leaders initially questioned whether Gentiles needed circumcision and law-keeping (Acts 15). Paul's revelation that Gentiles enter God's people through faith alone, without becoming Jewish, completed God's revelation of His redemptive plan. This wasn't innovation but illumination of Old Testament promises obscured by Jewish misinterpretation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you view Christian ministry—as career choice and personal fulfillment, or as divine stewardship and sacred trust?
2. What has God entrusted to you (gifts, knowledge, resources, opportunities) for others' benefit rather than your own?
3. How faithfully do you deliver God's truth unchanged versus adapting it to cultural preferences or personal comfort?

Interlinear Text

ἧς	ἐγενόμην	ἐγὼ	διάκονος	κατὰ	τοῦ	οἰκονομίαν		
Whereof	am made	I	a minister	according to	which	the dispensation		
G3739	G1096	G1473	G1249	G2596	G3588	G3622		
τοῦ	θεοῦ	τοῦ	δοθεῖσάν	μοι	εἰς	ὑμᾶς	πληρῶσαι	τοῦ
which	of God	which	is given	to me	for	you	to fulfil	which
G3588	G2316	G3588	G1325	G3427	G1519	G5209	G4137	G3588
λόγον	τοῦ	θεοῦ						
the word	which	of God						
G3056	G3588	G2316						

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:2 (References God): If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

Colossians 1:23 (Creation): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

1 Timothy 4:6 (Word): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (References God): And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: