

# 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

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**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" (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" (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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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ἵστιον 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

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**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: