



Hope:

The Motivation for Ministry

Colossians 1:24-29



1. Accomplishing
God's purposes on
earth involves the
hard work of
bringing believers
to maturity in
Christ. 1:28-29

**Paul proclaimed
Jesus Christ.**



Paul admonished and taught everyone with all wisdom. 1:28



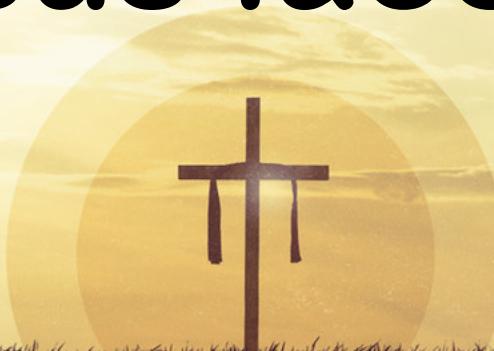
Paul's goal was to present everyone to Christ as mature, or perfect.

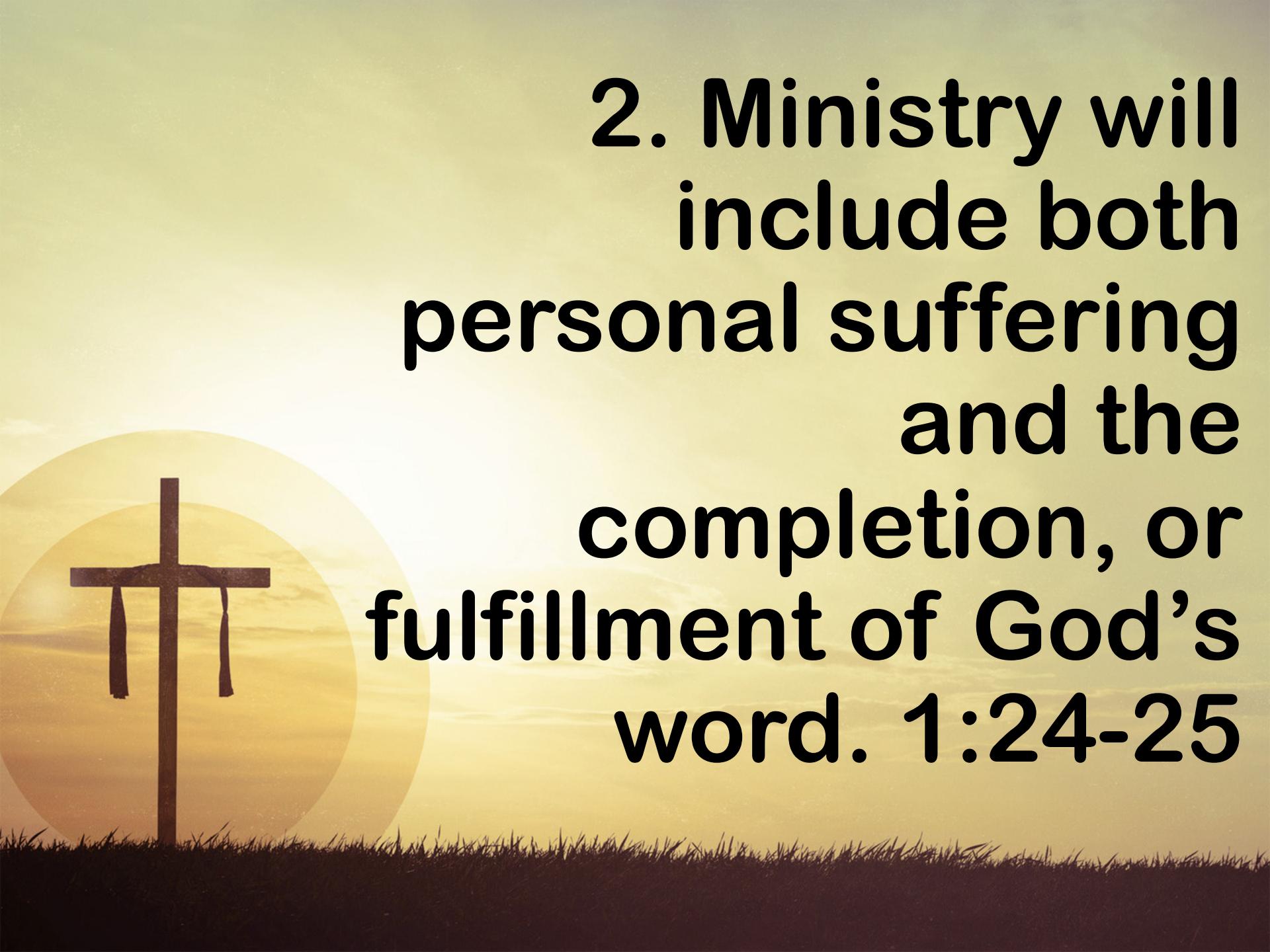


This was hard work which caused Paul to struggle. He was able to work for the goal with God's power working in him. 1:29



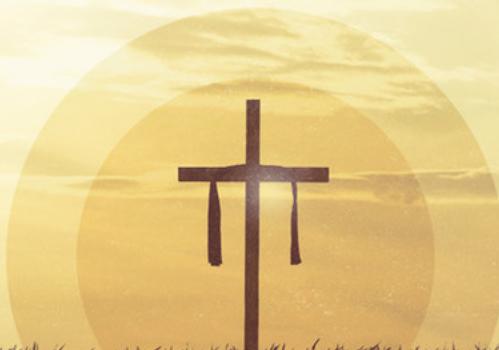
In what ways am I working
with God's power to help
myself and others mature
in Christ-likeness in
preparation for when we
meet Jesus face to face?



A large, stylized cross stands prominently on a grassy hill against a backdrop of a warm, golden sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds, and the horizon line is visible at the bottom of the frame.

**2. Ministry will
include both
personal suffering
and the
completion, or
fulfillment of God's
word. 1:24-25**

**Paul personally
suffered for the sake
of the church. 1:24**



**Paul personally
suffered for Christ.**

1:24



Paul worked to
complete or fulfill
God's word so people
may hear and respond.

1:25-27





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**Does my personal ministry
reflect hope, allowing me to
suffer as I loose God's word
in people's lives, or does my
personal ministry reflect my
convenience and
preferences?**



Christ was in Paul. Christ is at work in the church. Christ is preparing all of us for his return. The end, the glory, is certain. Therefore, the work of ministry matters because it prepares us for a certain future.



I expect you to adjust your schedules and to say no to other things so you can show up here on a regular basis to worship, to connect with small groups of believers, and to serve.



I expect you to give
generously and
sacrificially to support
the work of the church.



I expect you to invest your life in some way that will help others to mature, grow, and prepare to meet Jesus face to face.



I expect you to live a
Christ-like life in the
midst of unbelievers
who will be drawn to
your witness.



All of these things will be difficult. You will feel the pain. You will want to quit and do other things. You will wonder if it is worth it.



I also expect:

- God's power to be at work in you.
- The Spirit to renew your strength.
- The Spirit to speak into and through your life.
- Your ministry to make a difference in the lives of some, advancing God's kingdom on earth.

