

1:23 – Three connecting words that Paul uses but are also used to lead to an associated thought concerning the term. A concept is presented and then applied to the Colossians:

- a) **“Servant”** first in 1:23 then again in 1:25 – Paul is first a servant of the Kingdom of Light and so a servant to the Colossians.
- b) **“Struggling”** in 1:29 and then again in 2:1 – Paul is struggling to fulfill his ministry, Paul is struggling for the Colossians.
- c) **“faith”** in 2:5 and then again in 2:7 – Colossian’s faith is orderly and firm in Christ. So,, continue in this faith that you were taught.

“If” is in the first class condition which means “If, and I know it to be true.” There is no doubt in the “if.” Paul knows that in the past they had been reconciled. He has spoken of their future. There is no doubt about the outcome. There is both a logical theology here and a grammatical content that support this. Paul is addressing their present situation. They need to continue today in order to experience their reconciliation of the past and their blessing of their future.

1:24 – Paul shifts to his apostolic ministry here.

“Now” may mean:

1. the next logical point in his letter,
2. or “now” can mean “now” while Paul is currently in prison.
3. “now” could also refer to the current eschatological situation...church age.

Rejoicing and Suffering (2 Cor. 6:3-10; Romans 5:3; 2 Tim. 1:12 and 3:11)

The suffering Paul is enduring is not only for the Colossians, but for all of the Gentiles (see Ep. 3:13 and 3:8)

The word “I fill up” or **avtavaplero** is only here in the NT, but the same word in a different form appears in 1 Cor. 16:17 and Phil. 2:30 where it means to fill up” and “to complete”

1:25 – “commission” is **oikonomia** which meant a household servant as in Luke 16:1-4

The church is referred to as “household” or **oikos** in col 4:15; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 11:34; 16:19; 1 Tm. 3:5

See Ephesians 3:2 for parallel

1:26 –

1:27 -