

Name	Date	Audience
	February 18, 2020	

 **ACTION:**
Shape the culture through Bible-shaped not culture-shaped Gospel service

The Danger of Culture-Shaped Gospel Service (Colossians 1:24-29)

OPENING AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Problem:

Our view of Gospel service is shaped by the culture rather than by the Bible to the destruction of souls

It has these important manifestations:

- We have wrong expectations
- We have the wrong message
- We have wrong aims
- We have the wrong power

Allusion to the Solution:

That's an awful picture, isn't it? It's awful not just the ministers but for the people they minister to. What damage they will suffer under culture-shaped ministries. But there's a much better model of ministry. It's shaped by the Bible not the culture and it is a blessing both to ministers and the people they minister to.

TRANSITION

What does Bible-shaped Gospel service look like? First, a Gospel servant suffers like Christ.

FIRST INSIGHT

A Gospel servant suffers like Christ (24)

Data:

- His sufferings fill up Christ's sufferin
- His sufferings are for the church
- His sufferings result in joy

TRANSITION

That doesn't sound like a very attractive job description. Any positives? Yes, look at the message Gospel servants carry.

SECOND INSIGHT

A Gospel servant speaks hope like Christ (25-27)

Data:

- Paul presents a full Word
- Paul reveals an old mystery
- Paul preaches a rich Christ

TRANSITION

That does sound like an amazing subject. But what does it accomplish? It has the highest possible aim.

THIRD INSIGHT

A Gospel servant aims at likeness to Christ (28)

Data:

- Paul preaches Christ in various ways
- Paul aims at perfection in Christ

TRANSITION

The expectation is suffering, the message is Christ, and the aim is Christ's likeness. How can I ever accomplish this? There is great power available.

FOURTH INSIGHT

A Gospel servant serves by the power of Christ (29)

Data:

- Paul works extremely hard
- Paul works by the power of Christ

TRANSITION

There's a biblical model of ministry. What a contrast to the culture's model of ministry.

CLOSING/CALL TO ACTION

1. PROBLEM: When our view of Gospel ministry is shaped by the culture rather than by the Bible we end up with ministers who have the wrong expectations, content, aims, and power, to the destruction of souls. 2. INSIGHTS: A Gospel Servant (1) Suffers like Christ; (2) Speaks the hope of Christ; (3) Aims at likeness to Christ; (4) Serves by the power of Christ. 3. ACTION: Shape the culture by Bible-shaped Gospel service.