



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, 08/21/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 1:28-29**

**TITLE: Don’t Miss the Point**

What is the goal of parenting? Is it to create creatures who depend on you your whole life? Or is it to get them to strike it rich, so your retirement is realized? What’s about teaching? What’s the goal of teaching? Simply move them from one grade to another? To get good remarks from the parents, so you get your raise?

What’s the goal of coaching? Is it purely to win the championship? Is it to accelerate your career into the big leagues? What’s the goal of dsicipelship? Is it to have the biggest Sunday school class? Is it to get your model onto the speaking circuit?

Or is there something more to parenting? To coaching? To teaching? And to discipleship? There is, and that’s what we’ll discover as we continue our series “He is enough.” This is what Paul writes in Colossians 1:28-29 (NLT).

“So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. That’s why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.”

Paul has been talking about the inclusive and scandalous nature of the gospel. The true gospel is that salvation comes through Christ alone as a free gift offered by God to everyone. No one can earn it or buy it. No one is more deserving of it. The value of the gospel is priceless.

And that’s where Paul picks it up by saying, “we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us.” I think the ESV does a better job translating this by saying, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom.”

This is the job of every Christian today: to expose people to Christ, the truth of Christ, and the teaching of Christ. You see, we don’t preach Christ as we want him. We present Christ as He really is. We present His truth and His teaching as it really is.

Why? So they will be presented “to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ.” A better translation is “mature in Christ.” There’s this false teaching today that salvation is merely a free ticket to heaven. Maturity, sanctification, and/or discipleship is an option. But that’s simply not true. Discipleship and Christianity are as connected as lordship and salvation are.

The goal of parenting, teaching, coaching, and discipleship is maturity. It's about being able to live successfully. For us, as Christians, it is to grow people to become fully mature in Christ. And as Paul was fully dependent upon God to do so each and every day.

So here's my challenge for you today: pursue maturity. As the joke goes at our house, "How many boys do you have? Three, no wait, four including me." In other words, boys will be boys. But we shouldn't desire to remain like baby Christians. We shouldn't hold onto old sin habits and reject maturing in Christ.

So this weekend, identify one area you aren't maturing. Then ask God for the desire, strength, and ability to pursue maturity in Christ. Christ saves you on purpose and for a purpose, so begin to let him make that a reality.

When we do, friend, we will win the day.