

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
May 6th, 2018
Colossians 1:25-26

- **Kevin DeYoung** recently discussed how people in the church struggle with “identity” and purpose.
- **First thing: What does Paul consider himself?**
- **“of which I myself became a minister,”**
 - The Greek word here is “diakonos,” which is where we get our word for “deacon.” It literally means a “servant,” or “helper,” see **Acts 6:1-6**.
 - The Scripture do differentiate between elders and deacons. See **1st Timothy 3:8-10**.
 - No one in the church is above service. Paul an Apostle is not above still being designated as a lowly deacon. This is the same for elders. The difference then is only a difference of roles and duties. But all of them are called “Servants.”
- **“according to the stewardship of God”**
 - However, as we know, these “ministers” are chosen by God. God determines the ministers and servants in his church.
 - This being said, we know every individual in the church has roles to fulfill. See **1st Cor. 12**.
- **“that was given to me, for you, to fully conduct the Word of God,”**
 - This word is actually from the same Greek base word that we saw in the previous verse, that said “filling up a lack,” or “complete that which is lacking” in Christ's afflictions.
 - This isn't in reference to God's Word somehow lacking anything, but that the work of church is lacking in reference to it.
- **“the mystery that was kept hidden from the generations of the ages,”**
 - There was a time where God did not plainly and openly state the Gospel, and while it was there, it was a “mystery,” meaning it was a difficult issues to figure out and solve.
 - **Ephesians 3:1-6, Romans 16:25**.
- For example, without re-visiting each of these passages again, you can see the Gospel revealed from the beginning of history, but still it was “veiled,” and “mysterious.”
 - **Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 53:4-5**
- **“however now it was revealed to His saints.”**
 - Let us be grateful and joyful not only to trust in the will of God, but specifically, that this “mystery” is a mystery no more!
- **APPLICATION:**
 1. **Realize that you have been given a spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit, and it is our calling to understand it and serve the Kingdom of God using it**
 2. **Let us “carry out” the Word of God, as it was made clear in Scripture, just as Paul was called to do.**
 3. **Let us realize how wonderfully blessed we are to live in the age of the Gospel!**