

COLOSSIANS FINAL SESSION

Review: Last week we went through chapter 3 which began the practical part of the letter. The first two chapters were doctrinal and the last two chapters are the instructions for putting it into practical living. Paul talked about a different point of view **Colossians 3:1-2** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. He gave instructions about mortifying the deeds of the flesh and how to live as a new creature in Christ. He gave the order of the Christian home as well as for servants and masters.

Colossians 4:1 Masters, give unto *your* servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven. *At the end of the previous chapter, Paul wrote that the labor of Christian servants should be done unto Christ and not unto men. There will be a reward for faithful service and a recompense for poor service. He turns around here and gives the instruction for masters...to be honest and fair dealing.*

Colossians 4:2-4 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. *To watch means to stay alert; be vigilant...it carries the idea of a night watchman having to stay alert and pay attention. Jesus said this to Peter, James and John the evening of his arrest -* **Matthew 26:40-41** And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. *When we go to sleep on our prayer life, our past life wakes up. Praying with thanksgiving, thanksgiving keeps you from the attitude of entitlement. Paul also requests that they pray for him to have open doors of opportunity to preach the gospel. Here are some things to add to your prayer list if you don't already pray for them – wisdom(James 1:5,6) discernment(Ecclesiastes 8:5) more grace(James 4:6) the knowledge of His will(Colossians 1:19) against the plans of the enemy as well as putting on the whole armor of God(Ephesians 6:11-18) boldness and power(Acts 4:29)*

Colossians 4:5-6 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. *Be skillful in your manner of life with unbelievers. Here's why, they can't see Christ and they usually don't know anything about the Bible so all that they know about*

the kingdom of God is what they see in us. Our speech should be gracious, pleasant and pure and we need to be ready to answer questions. Most of the opportunities that we will have with unbelievers are usually set up by their questions. 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Colossians 4:7-8 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, *who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; Tychicus was a Christian from Asia Minor that accompanied Paul on his journey from Corinth to Jerusalem. Paul calls him a “faithful minister and fellow servant” and he was with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment. He was entrusted to deliver Paul’s epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians as well as bring them news of Paul’s estate and bring back word of their estate.*

Colossians 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here. Onesimus was a runaway slave that robbed his master and fled to Rome. While he was there, he encountered Paul and heard the gospel that led him to salvation in Christ. He continued with Paul, growing in faith and eventually returned to his master Philemon, whom Paul makes a plea for his forgiveness and reconciliation.*

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) *Aristarchus was a Macedonian from Thessalonica and a traveling companion of Paul. He got caught up in the uproar in Ephesus with Paul in Acts 19. Marcus is Barnabas’s nephew also known as John Mark. He left Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey and returned home. This later was the catalyst for Paul and Barnabas going their separate ways but in Paul’s last letter to Timothy he commends Marcus by writing that he is profitable for the ministry.*

Colossians 4:11 (KJV) And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only *are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. Justus was a Jewish Christian in the church at Rome and helped labor in the ministry with Paul and the others named here.*

Colossians 4:12-13 Epaphras, who is *one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. Epaphras was from Colosse and that’s why he had such*

a heart for these people and was so effective in ministering to them. He brought the gospel to these people, not Paul. Paul even says earlier that they have not seen his face before.

Colossians 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. *Luke the physician is the author of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He is the only Gentile to write any part of the New Testament. He was a close friend to Paul and traveled extensively with him and remained faithful till the end of Paul's life. Demas at one time was one of Paul's fellow laborers in the gospel ministry. He was with him during this imprisonment in Rome for at least for a while. Then we read this sad comment* **2 Timothy 4:10** For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. *He chose the corrupt value system of the unsaved world over what heaven values.*

Colossians 4:15-16 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea. *Laodicea was only about ten miles from Colosse and they were instructed to exchange letters and read them in the churches. It's interesting that Jesus spoke of them being lukewarm because he was drawing off of their water supply...the cities water supply was brought in by aqueduct and it was lukewarm because it was fed by the refreshing cold waters of Colosse and mingled with the hot springs of Heirapolis.*

Colossians 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. *Opinions vary on who Archippus is. He is believed to be the son of Philemon or possibly a family member because he is mentioned in the greeting of the letter to Philemon. He is believed to be a preacher/elder in this church and that Paul is both encouraging and warning him about diligence in the work that Christ has called him to. With the church being exposed to so much heresy, Paul could be saying to him "Make sure and tend to your duties". This verse is proof positive that the doctrine of total predestination is wrong. This verse proves both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man – Christ sovereignly called him to ministry, yet he must take heed and complete it.*

Colossians 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen. Written from Rome to the Colossians by Tychicus and Onesimus. *The signature of authenticity by the apostle Paul*