

COLOSSIANS 4:2-18 FINAL COMMANDS AND FAREWELL

Frank G Warbuton / General

Colossians / Colossians 4:2-18

Tonight, we will be wrapping up our study in the Book of Colossians.

As we have studied Colossians, we have seen how we are to put JESUS above all things. We have looked at some deep spiritual truths.

We studied how Paul Commended the Church at Colosse for their faith in JESUS CHRIST; and their love for the saints.

We observed how Paul laid out the Preeminence of Christ or how JESUS was to have the greatest honor. That JESUS is the image of the invisible GOD; having full equality with the FATHER showing that HE was GOD THE Son.

That JESUS is not only the preeminent one over creation; but is the Creator. We studied that JESUS is the sustainer of all things; that it is by HIS power that the atoms of the universe are held together.

We studied while we were once enemies of GOD; JESUS reconciled us and made peace between GOD and us through HIS shed blood on the Cross.

We saw that we need to stay connected and focused on JESUS and not fall into any of the empty and false doctrines of the world.

We examined how Paul, described how we are to put off the "old man" or sin nature and put on the "new man" or full life through JESUS CHRIST. This is evident in Baptism. The "old man" is buried with JESUS as the new believer is immersed in water and raised to "new life" coming out of the water; symbolizing the death; burial and resurrection of JESUS.

We have looked at that JESUS took the handwriting of the requirements of our sins and nailed them to HIS Cross. Our debt has been paid. When JESUS died

and rose again, HE defeated the principalities and powers; which are ranks of demons.

We examined the freedom we have in CHRIST and that we are not to be subject to legalism or doing things for him out of compulsion or legalism; but out of love.

We examined how we are to put off carnality; but to seek those things which are above and be focused on heaven and winning the lost to CHRIST.

We have studied that we are to put off the sensual and the social sins; and that we are to put on the new man and the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are to bear with one another and forgive one another. Most importantly; we are to put on love and let the word of Christ to dwell in us richly.

We saw that whatever we do; we are to do in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Last time we were in Colossians we looked at Chapter 3:18 to Chapter 4:1; which focused on Christian conduct in and outside the home.

We looked at applying the lessons that Paul laid out through the inspiration of the HOLY SPIRIT. The greatest example to put on love starts in the home.

We looked at Paul's commands to wives and husbands. We examined how precise GOD says things; in terms of what a marriage is; and how traditional Biblical marriage is under intense attack. In the section of scripture from Colossians Chapter 3:18 - Chapter 4:1 we receive confirmation from Paul for what Biblical Marriage is. Marriage between one man and one woman.

We looked at wives submitting to their own husbands; and husbands loving their wives. When husbands and wives are each obedient to their own roles, marriage is a wonderful example of the relationship between JESUS and HIS Church.

We studied that children are to obey their parents in all things, to be pleasing to the LORD.

We saw how the husband is to be the leader in the home. Leading his family in prayer and Bible Study. Fathers are to be encouraging their children to serve and love the LORD; without provoking their children and discouraging them.

Our message last time ended with the relationship between employees and employers. As employees we are to obey our bosses and do our jobs as unto the LORD. We are not to be men pleasers; because it is from the LORD that we will receive our reward.

We concluded with Masters or bosses being just and fair with employees; because we have a Master, JESUS who is in heaven.

We all have a role or multiple roles in our Christian life to fulfill. The important thing to remember; no matter what your role is, is to be obedient to the LORD's commands in your role.

As we enter into this final section of Colossians, Paul gives his final instructions and greetings to the Church at Colosse,

[Colossians 4:2-18](#)

“2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,”

“9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),

11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.”

“16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.”

[Colossians 4:2-4](#)

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4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

vs 2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. Means to be fervently and non-stop.

Vigilant means to be watching, wide awake and alert. Expecting an answer.

Turn to [Luke 18:1-8](#)

“1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

2 saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’

4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ”

6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.

7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

8 As the widow did not relent until received an answer; please do no give up while waiting for your answer.

[Psalm 100:4](#)

“4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

Thanksgiving means being thankful. Sometimes when we pray for something and the answer comes in a different way than what we expected; don’t complain.

GOD may answer in a way and not give us what we want, but what we need.

[Isaiah 55:8-9](#)

“8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Please turn back to [Colossians 4](#).

[Colossians 4:3-4](#)

“3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

Paul is asking the Church at Colossae to be fervent in their prayers for him and those with him to be able to share the mystery of CHRIST; which is the Gospel. He is also asking to be able to have the words to speak. Saints we need fervent in the prayer for each other and for the ministries that are on the front lines sharing the Gospel.

[Revelation 3:8](#)

“8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

GOD is able to open doors that no one can shut and he can shut doors that no one can open.

Brothers and sisters; when we are in a situation to share the Gospel and don't know what to say. What should we do? Pray.

We can ask GOD to give us the words for each and every situation. GOD can open the door to lead to a conversation. (share story about JW and oil change at body shop)

[Colossians 4:5](#)

“5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.”

To walk the Christian life means to make progress and to continually move forward. If you are stagnant and standing still in your walk; then you are moving backwards.

To walk in wisdom; means to gain and use knowledge. Where does wisdom come from?

[Proverbs 1:7](#)

“7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

To those who are outside would refer to unbelievers.

Walking in wisdom with unbelievers may put us in a situation to answer an unbeliever or not.

[Proverbs 26:4-5](#)

“4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.”

How do you know which way to go, to answer an unbeliever? If an unbeliever is asking you sincere questions. Answer them. If the questions are not sincere don't answer.

(share about Rick at Sub Surg.)

Back to [Colossians 4:5](#).

Redeeming the time means to make the most of every opportunity to grow in the wisdom and knowledge and love of the LORD.

(time in the word etc. example of my drives and how the LORD fed me)

[Colossians 4:6](#)

“6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

We should strive to let our speech to be filled with words that afford joy or sweetness; with calmness.

Salt was a preservative since modern forms of refrigeration were not invented. Salt would slow and stop decay. This is how our speech should be.

We should not be afraid to stand up for righteousness.

The LORD will give wisdom as how to answer each person he brings across our paths to talk to; but we need to do our part.

[1Peter 3:15](#) “

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

How do we do that; by standing time knowing the LORD through his WORD. Is the Bible the first thing you pick up in the morning or is it your phone?

[Colossians 4:7-15](#)

“7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts,

9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),

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13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.”

In this section of Colossians Paul is giving his final greetings to those who had served with him. Some are names we are unfamiliar with, but there are also names of those we have read about in different parts of the Bible.

First a name we are probably unfamiliar with, Tychicus. We learn that Paul says he is beloved brother; a faithful minister and a fellow servant in the LORD.

He was a close friend to Paul who knew everything that was going on with Paul.

We also learn that he was a comforter. Isn't it great to have a brother or sister in the LORD, who is like that are beloved brothers and sisters; who we can share the most intimate details of our hearts with. A person who is a joy to serve with and someone we go to and they are a ray of sunshine and encouragement.

Next in verse 9 a name we are familiar with; Onesimus. Your homework for the week. Read the Book of Philemon.

In the Book of Philemon, we read that Onesimus was a slave owned by a man named Philemon. Onesimus ran away and was in prison with Paul.

We do not know why Onesimus was a slave. The reasons why a person varied from those Rome had conquered in war; they could be the son or daughter of an existing slave or they could sell themselves into slavery to pay off a financial debt.

Slaves were considered property in ancient Rome and had no legal personhood.

A slave who fled from his master was dealt with very harshly. They would take a slave who ran away from his or her master and tattoo a large F on their head which meant Fugitivo or Fugitive.

Later in an attempt to be more compassionate metal tags that would be about 2-1/4 inches in diameter; would be attached to a runaway slave.

A latin phrase similar to what we would be put on a dog; would be "Hold me lest I flee, and return me to my master _____ at the estate of _____."

While Onesimus was a runaway slave; Paul considered him a son in Philemon Chapter 1 vs 10. We know from the same verse that Onesimus came to Christ while he was with Paul in prison.

Paul appealed to Philemon to receive Onesimus back as more than a slave, but as a brother in Christ and to show mercy to him.

Aristarchus was a fellow prison with Paul.

Mark the cousin of Barnabas we have heard of before.

[Acts 12:25](#)

“25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.”

But something happened between Paul and Barnabas over John Mark.

Turn to [Acts 15:36-40](#)

“36 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.”

37 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.

38 But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.

39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

This division was so severe that Paul and Barnabas parted ways. But GOD does not waste anything in HIS economy. Instead of having three men out sharing the Gospel; there were now four men in two groups of two sharing the Gospel. Reaching more people.

Whatever caused this division to happen appears to have been resolved by the time write the Letter to the Colossians. In verse 10 he tells Barnabas to greet John Mark.

Next Is Jesus, who was called Justus. We only know that he was a fellow worker for the Kingdom of God.

All of the above-named men, Paul describes as of the circumcision; or that they were Jewish and were a comfort to Paul.

Next we have Epaphras who was a bonds slave of JESUS CHRIST. We know that Epaphras was a prayer warrior.

There have been men that the LORD has burdened greatly for the ministry of prayer. Men like John “Praying Hyde.” Hyde. He was so burdened to pray that he was known as “Camel Knees” because of the callouses that formed on his knees from the amount of time he spent on them.

Or other men like E.M. Bounds or George Mueller.

Praise the LORD for the prayer warriors that HE raises up, here in our own body. Those dear saints that you know are not shy about coming before the LORD’s throne to intercede on the behalf of others.

Epaphras had a heart for the lost; especially those in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Luke the beloved physician is the author of The Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, which many scholars believe to be the trial documents for Paul when he went to Rome.

We will come back to Demas in a moment.

Verse 15 concludes with Paul stating to greet the brethren in Laodicea and Nymphas. Nymphas had a church in his home in Laodicea.

(talk about early church vs modern church)

What do all these second group of names have in common. They are all Greek or gentile names.

Let's go back to Demas. While Paul mentions that Demas greets the church at Colossae, here. We need to put an asterisk by his name, for how he was used as an example.

Turn to [2 Timothy 4:10](#)

“10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.”

Demas is a warning to all believers. It is not a matter of how you start the race and how fast you run the race. It is a matter of persevering and completing your race well.

Sprinters may start off a marathon well; but may not endure to the end.

Some of you may be asking; why go through all of the names. The reason I believe the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to do this, is that people matter to GOD.

While our names specifically will not be found in the Bible. There is a book that we definitely want our names to be written in. The Lambs Book of Life.

[Revelation 20:15](#)

“15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

What do we need to do to have our name written in the Book of Life? (share the Gospel)

Turn back to [Colossians 4:16-18](#) and we will wrap up and close.

“16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.”

Verse 16 Paul is asking that the churches pass the letters around amongst themselves. It mentions a Letter to the Church of Laodicea. GOD has a reason why Paul's letter to Laodicea has been lost to the passage of time.

But we do have JESUS's letter in the Book of Revelation to the Church at Laodicea; where he was knocking on the door to get in.

Verse 17 As Archippus was to take heed to the ministry he received from the LORD; so should we take heed to our individual ministries. May we each fulfill the ministries the LORD has given to us.

Verse 18 Paul signs the letter with his own hand. He concludes with a request to remember his chains.

Grace be with you. Amen.

Let's pray