

Colossians - Chapter 4 - by Ramon Osejo

- Paul now is concluding his letter and he is saying goodbye to a group of people he has never met.
- I just wondering if the thought cross Paul's mind "have I told them everything. Is there anything else I need to tell them.
- Vs 2 – **Devote to prayer** – it is not an act of duty or check mark. It is a privilege that we have when we talk to God.
- We don't need a difficult circumstances or emergency to talk to God. We access to the throne of God always. We are not put on hold when we call, or the line is busy.
- We have a wonderful Savior and His blessings are too numerous that would be easy for us to get in our knees constantly
- What you can do for a person is to pray. Pray wherever YOU ARE. Become a person of prayer.
- Vs 3,4 **Pray for us** – it is amazing that Paul is not asking to get out of prison, but pray that I'll be able to share the gospel with everybody, the soldiers, the prisoner, the warden, etc. I don't want anybody to miss the opportunity to hear the gospel.
- To Paul the Gospel was more important than his freedom. There is power in the Gospel.
- That is a prayer we can say. God open the door to share the gospel with someone today
- Vs 5, **Be wise** – People are watching us. They need to see that the Gospel has made the difference in our lives. We are God's written letter; we are God's invitation to the Gospel; we are not the protector of His Kingdom. We are the advertisement of God's Kingdom.
- Vs 6 – **Your conversation** – I need this message. I am guilty of not paying attention of what I say and how I say things. Our words matter; what we say matter; we need to articulate God's grace. A message of hope. The more we talk to God we become influence by Him then our speech would be Kingdom lingo
- Watch out who or what influencing your speech

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- Vs 7, Give a list of people – real people. It is amazing that Paul is surrounded by godly men. Gladiators of the Gospel.
- **Tychicus** - he is inside of prison. A faithful minister, devoted to the gospel.
- Ty is the carrier of the letter and he read the letter to the church in Colossae. Ty did not know he was the carrier of Power (Gospel). A message of the Holy Spirit.
- I think Ty volunteered when Paul looked for someone to trust to deliver this letter. Someone who understood the magnitude of the cargo.
- **Tychicus** is mentioned in [Acts 20:4](#) as one of the men who came with Paul from the Roman province of Asia to Jerusalem, to carry the offering of those believers to the needy Christians of Jerusalem and Judea.
- The reference to Tychicus is almost word for word identical with [Ephesians 6:21-22](#). He was evidently the carrier of the letter to the Ephesians as well as this one
- God Uses ordinary man for extraordinary work
- Tychicus would encourage your heart – His story has been preserved for centuries in the Scriptures for many people to read. What a legacy
- What about you, what is your legacy? How long my legacy would last?
- Vs 9 – **Onesimus, a faithful and dear brother:** Onesimus was a slave owned by a believer in Colossae, but he ran away and encountered Paul in Rome. There, Onesimus became a Christian and a dedicated helper to Paul. His story is continued in Paul's letter to Philemon.
- Paul *could have* written about Onesimus, "the escaped slave who I am sending back to his master." Instead, he called him a **faithful and dear brother**, and let the Colossian Christians know that Onesimus was now **one of you**. It is a lesson for us that we don't hold the past actions to serve one another.
- Onesimus is another proof of the power of the gospel. His life has been changed and he is ready to serve Jesus.
- Our past does not dictate our future. Our past is nailed on the cross.

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- Vs.10, **Aristarchus** – A Macedonian, who is mentioned three times in the book of Acts.
- He was with Paul during the Ephesians riot – Acts 19:29; and therefore he was known in Colossae.
- Aristarchus and Tychicus were with Paul in Greece (Acts 20:4)
- He accompanied Paul in his trip to Rome – Acts 27:2
- **Mark** – The writer of the second Gospel. Acts 13:13 – Mark abandoned the missions and went back to Jerusalem.
- Acts 15:36-40 – Paul did not take Barnabas' advice to take Mark on the second missionary journey because Mark has "deserted" him in Pamphylia.
- 12 years later, it seems that issue has been settled because Paul mentioned him in here and Philemon vs 24. (letter was sent at the same time as the Colossians). [2 Timothy 4:11](#)
- Mark has a changed of heart. Welcome to the family. We don't hold grudge.
- A lesson for us God never gives up. God always chasing us.

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- Vs11, **The Jews** – these three men agreed with Paul that salvation is by grace – not by keeping the law.
- Vs 12 – **Epaphras Always wrestling (ferently for you) in prayers:** Prayer is hard work, and Epaphras worked diligently at it, especially knowing the danger of the false teaching in Colossae. So, Epaphras prayed that the Colossian Christians would **stand perfect and complete in all the will of God**. This is a wonderful prayer to pray for anyone
- This is something we can do for one another
- **Hierapolis** 6 miles from Colossae
- **Laodicea** 14 miles from Colossae – Present time Turkey. Paul did not plant these churches. Epaphras heard the Gospel when Paul was in Ephesus.
- Vs 14 – **Luke - the beloved physician:** This is the one passage that informs us that Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts, was a physician.
- **Demas** - Here, nothing positive is said about Demas, only that he greets the Colossian Christians and therefore must have been known to them. In [Philemon 1:24](#) he is grouped among Paul's *fellow laborers*. Yet in the last mention of him ([2 Timothy 4:10](#))
- Vs 15 – **Church in her house** – The early church did not have buildings. It was common and usually met for worship in homes. It often centered around a family
- This is what we are practicing now due to the corona virus. Our home is a place of worship

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- We need to remember that there was no such thing as a special Church building until the third century. Up to that time the Christian congregations met in the houses of those who were the leaders of the Church.
- Vs 16 – **After this letter has been read** – The practice of the early church was When Paul and other apostles wrote letters to churches, the letters were simply publicly read aloud in the congregations. It was a way for the apostle to teach that church even when he could not personally be there.
- It was the general practice to distribute all apostolic letters among the churches, especially those close to each other.
- **Laodicean's letter** – it could have been the letter to the Ephesians – a circular letter from Ephesus to Laodicea to Colossae
- Vs 17, Archippus – finish the job man. It sounds that is time to get it done
- Vs 18, Remember my chains – Paul authority. He has the power to Speak
- Grace be with you.

