



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

## Colossians 4

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

### A believer's journey to transformed life ... from Hearing to Doing (Continued from Ch.3):

- **A Believer's Prayer life (1-6):** What is prayer? What will make our prayer life effective? What is Paul's prayer request? Does Paul need help in speaking? What should be our witness? What does 'redeeming the time' mean? What does 'seasoned with salt' mean?
- **Paul's fellow workers (7-14):** Who are some of the workers mentioned? How does Paul address his fellow workers? Why did Paul need fellow workers? What was the quality and content of Epaphras' prayer for the church?
- **Paul's final greeting (15-18):** What happened to Laodicea church, despite receiving Paul's teachings? (Revelation 3:14-22) What is the warning for us from Laodicean church? What was Paul's counsel to Archippus and what do we learn about our calling?
- **Personal Reflection:** How does our prayer request compare to Paul's prayer request? ... Are we seeking first His Kingdom needs or our personal needs?

3.10.21

# Living the new Life requires action!

(chapters 3 & 4)

- Seek and Set affection above

Why Live a  
new life?  
Ch.1/2

- Put to death

- Put off

- Put on

- Obey God's divine order at home/work

- Pray

Is all of  
this  
possible?

**YES,**  
Through  
Christ Alone  
(Romans  
8:10)

# A Believer's Prayer life (1-6):

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# Prayer life (2-4)

**Prayer** is our time of communion with God. Paul exhorts us to continue, be watchful, and be thankful

- **Continue** – need to be consistent in our prayer life (dedicated time, dedicated place), pray until we hear from God (Yes, No, Wait, next step)
- **Watchful** – to avoid wandering thoughts, distraction, and sleep (as the disciples in garden of Gethsemane)
- **Thanksgiving** - for answered prayers and faith for future anticipated answers to prayers

# Paul's prayer request (3-4)

Surprisingly, Paul does not request freedom from prison

- To speak the mystery of Christ
- For doors to be opened (Acts 14:27)
- Clear message
  - Even Paul had to depend on Holy Spirit for open doors and appropriate words to minister to the needs of listeners .... How much more should we?

# Prayer life will impact our walk and talk

**WALK** (5) be a witness for Christ ... our life should reflect our Savior

**TALK** (6) speak gracefully (Christ like ... humble, encouraging, healing, compassionate), No sins of the tongue (Colossians 3, James 3)

unstable walk and uncontrolled talk is  
A sign of a weak prayer life

# Redeeming the Time, Seasoned with Salt (5,6)

## **Redeeming the time**

make best use of every opportunity, don't waste time) (Ephesians 5:16)

Our days are like passing shadow (Psalms 144:4)

For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14)

## **Seasoned with salt**

know how to answer each one (6)... with wisdom and knowledge, lovingly challenge false beliefs. Speak words appropriate to the listener (same gospel presented in diverse ways based on the need of the listener)

# Paul's fellow workers (7-14)

Who are some of the workers mentioned? How does Paul address his fellow workers? Why did Paul need fellow workers? What was the quality and content of Epaphras' prayer for the church?



# Paul's fellow workers and family of believers

Tychius (7-8)

Onesimus (9)

Aristarchus (10)

Marcus/Mark (10)

Justus (11)

Epaphras (12-13)

Luke (14)

Demas (14)

Archippus (17)

# Paul's Fellow workers

## Tychius (7-8)

Beloved brother, faithful minister, fellow servant

Carried Paul's letter from Rome to Colosse (also took to Ephesians, 6:21-22)

To encourage them and update on Paul's condition

## Onesimus (9)

Faithful and beloved brother

Accompanied Tychius

Will deliver Paul's letter to Philemon

# Paul's Fellow workers

**Aristarchus** (10) Fellow prisoner seized by mob along with Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:29) went with Paul as prisoner to Rome (Acts 27:2)

**Marcus/Mark** (10) (writer of Mark, cousin of Barnabas)

- To receive him
- Conflict between Paul & Barnabas over Mark, and separation (Acts 15:36-40) ... but now restored

**Jesus called Justus** (Greek equivalent of Hebrew name Joshua)

**Paul's fellow workers were a source of comfort to him (11)**

- **We cannot do God's work alone.** We need fellow workers to encourage us, correct us, teach us, challenge us, and complement what we are doing. (**I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. I Corinthians 3:6**)

# Epaphras (12-13), a man of prayer

- Remembered the believers in prayers constantly (a great and required quality for an elder or pastor)
- Epaphras called ‘bondservant in Christ” (Philippians 1:1 Paul & Timothy called bondservants) ...no one else given that title
- **Labored in prayer**
  - That Colosse believers may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God
  - Great zeal (13) lead to great burden and great prayers for Colosse church
  - Also prayed for believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

# Luke & Demas

- **Luke** (14)
  - Author of Luke and Acts
  - Paul's spiritual and health companion in missionary journeys
- **Demas** (14)
  - Philemon 1:24 (fellow laborer)
  - II Timothy 4:10, Demas left Paul for the world (close association with Paul is no guarantee of great finish ... even Judas betrayed Christ ... we need to take personal responsibility for our spiritual life)

# Paul's final greeting (15-18)

What happened to Laodicea church, despite receiving Paul's teachings? (Revelation 3:14-22) What is the warning for us from Laodicean church? What was Paul's counsel to Archippus and what do we learn about our calling?

# Laodicea

- Brethren in Laodicea, church that was in home (similar to Philemon)
  - Letter to Colosse to be read in this church also
  - Common practice to circulate letters among churches
- Letter of Laodicea to be read in Colosse
  - Not sure what this letter is (maybe Ephesians)

# Laodicean Church

## ... began well, but did not finish well

- Received Paul's teachings but did not finish well (why?)
- Laodicean Church – Lukewarm, false security (Revelation 3:16-17)

### Warning for us

- Just hearing good teachings will not change us ...we need to practice  
(Philippians 4:8 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do)
- Pride and self-righteousness will lead to a quick fall



# Archippus (17)

Some say Archippus (Philemon 2) is son of Philemon. **Paul's counsel ...**  
"Pay attention" to the "received ministry" and "fulfill it"

1. Ministry Is received from the Lord (not church, or self)
  2. Our obligation is to fulfill it (with the grace of God)
  3. Encourage others in their ministry (as Paul did; do not be jealous or be a hindrance to the ministry of others)
- **Do you know what ministry you have received from the Lord?** (this knowledge will liberate us, and give us a purpose and passion in life)
  - **Are you fulfilling your ministry for His glory?**

# Paul's Signature (18)

The salutation by the hand of me Paul.  
Remember my bonds.  
Grace be with you.  
Amen.

# Personal reflection

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