



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

October 15 – Colossians 4:2-18

Section 1: Introduction

The final section of Paul's letter to the Colossians, encompassing verses 4:2-18, serves as a fitting conclusion to his epistle.

Throughout the letter, Paul has been addressing the challenge of syncretism—a blending of various religious beliefs and practices—among the Colossian Christians.

To combat this, Paul has been urging the Colossians to look at the supremacy, authority, and sufficiency of Christ. Additionally, he has been urging the Colossians to “put on Christ” and grow up into him who is their head. He has been encouraging them to truly live in light of the reality of Christ’s Lordship and imminent return.

As he concludes his letter, Paul emphasizes the importance of prayer and steadfastness in faith. He encourages the recipients to devote themselves to prayer, remaining vigilant and watchful. Paul urges them to intercede for him as well, requesting that they pray for open doors for the proclamation of the gospel.

In this concluding passage, Paul also extends greetings and sends his commendations to various individuals, fostering a sense of community and unity in the face of the challenges presented by the culture around them.

Read Colossians 4:2-18.

Section 2: Walk slowly through your passage.

Verses 2-4:

1. What does Paul tell the Colossians to continue steadfastly in?
2. What two qualifications does he add to that encouragement?
3. What two things does Paul ask for prayer for?

Verses 5-6:

1. How does Paul encourage the Colossians to interact with "outsiders?"
2. What qualities should their speech be seasoned with?
3. Read the following verses and comment on how they enrich what Paul instructs the Colossians to do here in verse 6:

(1) 1 Peter 2:12

(2) Ephesians 4:29

(3) Matthew 5:16

Verses 7-17:

1. Who are the different individuals that Paul mentions in these verses? List them out.
2. What details do you learn about each of these persons? Write them out next to their names in the space below.

Verse 18:

1. What three things does Paul end his letter writing about?
2. Why might these three, brief sentences be an important capstone to this letter as a whole?

Section 3: Reflection questions

1. How is your prayer life currently? Do you continue steadfastly in prayer and remain watchful? How can you deepen your commitment to prayer and cultivate a more vigilant posture in your prayer life?
2. In what ways are you actively seeking open doors for the proclamation of the gospel in your daily life? How can you make the mystery of Christ manifest through your words and actions?
3. How do you conduct myself toward those outside the faith? Do you walk in wisdom, making the best use of your interactions with outsiders?
4. Are you actively engaged in fostering a sense of community and unity among fellow believers? How do you contribute to the strength and encouragement of the Church? In what ways can you extend greetings, support, and commendations to your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?
5. How does your understanding of Paul's chains impact your own dedication and willingness to stand firm in the face of opposition or temptations towards worldliness?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 4:2-18, write out a prayer in response to what you've read or use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

[Sample prayer]

Heavenly Father,

Help me to deepen my commitment to prayer, to be diligent in seeking your presence, and to be watchful for your leading and guidance in every aspect of my life.

Father, I pray also for open doors for the proclamation of the gospel. Give me opportunities to make the mystery of Christ manifest through my words and actions. And grant me wisdom, Lord, to walk in grace and love, especially when interacting with those who do not know you.

Lord, I lift up the community of believers around me. Help me to actively foster unity, encouragement, and support among them. Give me a heart that extends greetings, love, and encouragement to them, affirming the strength of our shared faith.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 4:2-18 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 4:2-18 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. **Memorize Colossians 4:5-6.** Use various techniques to memorize the passage, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.