

COLOSSIANS PART 16

Final instructions & closing salutations.

Look into some of the people mentioned in the final chapter

COL 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; **3** 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: **4** That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

The first thing to go bad on a Grace Believer is his prayer life..... get back on track, start with THANKSGIVING!

One of prayers' true functions is helping us take personal spiritual inventory.

It's **MAINTENANCE**.. it's taking the doctrine, the Word of God resident **in you** and **applying** it in your day to day circumstances and situations

Re: **verse 3**, Paul is making his requests known to God. **PHIL 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. make requests known, and God promises you grace & peace.

Paul didn't get what he asked for. It appears as though he died in prison. **2 Tim 4:6** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.....**9** Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

John 14: You get whatever you ask for!

If you get what you asked for in this, the Dispensation of the Grace of God, you've lost OUT!

Rom 8:26 says we don't KNOW what to pray for as we ought, but here's our MORE EXCELLENT prayer promise in **EPH 3:20** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding **abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Col 4:3-4 are a great ensample of this principle in action.

Paul's request and desire was to make the doctrine known, to spread it around the country.

He didn't get out of prison, but was Paul's desire fulfilled?

YES here we are 2000 years later, reading and studying the doctrine and information because he wrote a letter from prison.....I'd say THAT'S exceedingly and abundantly ABOVE what he was thinking!

COL 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.(Eph 5:16 b/c the days are evil)

Don't waste your opportunity, Do something ETERNAL. See souls saved, saints edified.

Walk in wisdom - **TITUS 2:10** 'adorning the doctrine' with your manner of life.

Walk in Wisdom! Your carelessness regarding your behavior and appearance to the world CAN most definitely cause a lasting prejudice or stumblingblock against the TRUTH.

You never get a second chance to make a first impression.

WHY ARE WE SO CARELESS AND THOUGHTLESS WITH OUR SAVIORS' 1ST IMPRESSION?

6 Let your speech *be* always with grace, (in every direction, in every way, in every manner) seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

You're of course not always talking about Grace Doctrine, but the words that flap past our gums should be GUIDED by Grace Doctrine.. and grace doctrine teaches HOW we ought to answer every man..... grace w/ salt.

Salts' Purpose: Job 6:6 Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt?

What's more unsavory than telling someone they're headed for Hell?

What's more unsavory than telling someone they're doctrine is desperately wrong?

What's more unsavory than reproofing and rebuking someone?

COL 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, *who is* a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: Paul doesn't waste much time w/ PAULNEWS!

He sent Tychicus...**8** Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

COL 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.

Faithfulness is only proved by TIME and BAD circumstances.

Onesimus = Book of Philemon Philemon is GREAT book to see how Grace operates practically.

PHILE 1:10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: **11** Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: **12** Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: **13** Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel: **14** But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit *should not be as it were of necessity*, but willingly.

not of necessity...

2 COR 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Grace giving is not forced or legislated.

We give CHEERFULLY expecting ZERO fold return

Our blessings are spiritual and waiting for us in heavenly places. (EPH 1:3)

Back to **COL 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;)

11 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.

1st time we see Aristarchus is in Acts 19.

Looks like Aristarchus is **FAITHFUL** in getting in trouble for Paul b/c he's in JAIL w/ him now too!!

Marcus: Barneys' nephew...The basis of the Great SCHISM between Paul n' Barney. This is John Mark. He 1st shows up in Acts 12, went w/ Paul n' Barney into Antioch. **In Acts 13, John Mark bolts the scene and leaves the 2 of them right before Paul & Barney preach a few sermons that result in persecution and getting thrown out of town.**

ACTS 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and* see how they do. **37** And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. **38** But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, (Acts 13) and went not with them to the work. **39** And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; **40** And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

and you never hear of Barnabas again..... We don't know all the details and the back story, but we know that Barney was willing to SPLIT with the Apostle Paul over this matter.

Paul was looking for FAITHFUL WORKERS, and John Mark had blown it!
Barnabus was fighting the wrong guy.

Sometimes the best thing you can do for a persons' day at the Judgement Seat of Christ is to say NO. To say, you BLEW IT.

Saying NO obviously did good for John Mark. **He proved himself later to be faithful!**

2 TIM 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

P.S. Paul is PRACTICING (recieving Mark again) what he PREACHES. (what he said to Philemon) **Phile 1:10** I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: **11** Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me: **12** Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

COL 4:10 (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) **Don't know what the commandments were. Maybe John Marks' reputation preceded him? Either way, Colossians were supposed to recieve him.**

These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

Total of 8 guys there helping him out.... It's ALWAYS been lonely to be Pauline

COL 4:12 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. **13** For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them *that are* in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

ZEAL is not bad, but being zealous for the WRONG thing is bad. **GAL 1:13** For ye have heard

of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: **14** And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. Murderous Saul(Paul) was zealous, murderous Rome in the Dark Ages was zealous, murderous Muslims are zealous.

Folks have the RIGHT THING, but no zeal for it.

Folks have the WRONG THING and have LOTS of zeal for it.

HAVE BOTH! Have ZEAL for the RIGHT THING.... God's Book, believed and rightly divided.

COL 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. **15** Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

Luke, wrote 2 books, Gospel of Luke and Acts. Not one of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

DEMAS! At the time Pauls' writing **COL 4**, Demas is right there with him! In **Philemon** he's called a 'FELLOWLABORER'

In the end, what is the testimony of Demas? **2 TIM 4:10** For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;

Demas' affections were on the PRESENT EVIL world, not set on things above.

Faithfulness is only proved by TIME and BAD circumstances.

COL 4:15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house. Wow, looks like your small assembly in your house is a 'real church'

16 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.

This Epistle from Laodicea is actually most likely the Book of Philemon. .

LAST WORDS.... **COL 4:17** And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, **that thou fulfil it.**

In **Philemon**, Paul says And to [our] beloved Apphia, and Archippus **our fellowsoldier**, and to the church in thy house:

Hey Archie! Got a letter from Paul today..... he says you better not quit.....

Paul being PROACTIVE about potential problems.

FINAL VERSE: **COL 4:18** The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds.

Grace *be* with you. Amen.

Paul wrote salutation, that means he had other men write down the rest of the letter.

Inspiration, Preservation.