

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

COLOSSIANS 4:12-18

Lesson 16

REVIEW:

Paul and his *fellow servants* were dedicated and committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Recall one thing that intrigued you from these men's lives.

FIRST DAY:

Read and study Colossians 4:12-18 inductively. See last page.

SECOND DAY: Read Colossians 4:12,13

1. In Colossians 4:12,13 Paul speaks of Epaphras, who was first mentioned in Colossians 1:7. Epaphras, a Gentile, was apparently led to Christ during Paul's three year stay at Ephesus. He returned home to Colosse to share the Gospel and founded the Colossian church. Sometime after that he went to Rome to see Paul and share the condition of the Colossian church. This resulted in Paul's letter to the Colossians. Epaphras chose to remain in Rome as a fellow prisoner with Paul rather than return to Colosse. List what Paul says about Epaphras in verses 12,13.
 - a. What three words describe Epaphras' prayer life? Verse 12
2. *Labouring*, in Colossians 4:12, refers to *agonizing* or *striving* in prayer. It refers to "wrestling by putting forth all our strength". What does this suggest to you regarding the cost of prayer?
 - a. This word is descriptive of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane in Luke 22:44. Think about the necessity to *agonize* or *strive* in prayer considering the satanic forces hindering God's people from praying. How do these forces hinder you from praying?
 - 1.) What can we do to win this battle? Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. Review Colossians 4:2. What one word in Colossians 4:12 shows Epaphras' *continuing in prayer*?

4. Epaphras was not only persistent but also specific in his intercessory prayers. For whom was he praying in verses 12 and 13?
 - a. What did he pray for the Colossian church? Colossians 4:12b
 - 1.) In what way does Epaphras' prayer inspire you?
5. State another noteworthy quality about Epaphras recorded in Colossians 4:13.
 - a. In what way do you see his *zeal* manifested?

THIRD DAY: Read Colossians 4:14

1. What familiar name is recorded in Colossians 4:14?
 - a. What do we learn about Luke from Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 1:24?
2. Luke was the author of the third Gospel and the book of Acts. In these books he linked together what Jesus did while on earth and continued to do after His resurrection. He was the only New Testament writer that was not a Jew. Luke was one of Paul's most faithful travel companions. At the end of Paul's life, as he was facing martyrdom (II Timothy 4:6,7), where do we find Luke? II Timothy 4:11
3. Who is the person named in Colossians 4:14b?
 - a. Notice there is no loving descriptive word about Demas. He is only mentioned three times in Paul's letters. What *fellowlaborers* is he linked with in Philemon 1:24?
4. Record what Paul says about Demas in II Timothy 4:10.
 - a. What caused Demas to *forsake* Paul? II Timothy 4:10
 - 1.) What does I John 2:15-17 say about this?
 - 2.) How could love of the world cause you to *forsake* godly friends?
 - b. What could keep you from becoming like Demas? Jude 1:20,21

FOURTH DAY: Read Colossians 4:15-17

1. In these final verses Paul sends personal greetings and directions. To whom does he send greetings? verse 15
2. Where did Paul want the Colossians' letter read? Verse 16
3. The last associate Paul speaks of is mentioned in Colossians 4:17. The only other time Archippus' name is recorded in the Bible is Philemon 1:2. How is he described there?
 - a. All believers are called to *endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ* (II Timothy 2:3). *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him Who hath chosen him to be a soldier.* (II Timothy 2:4) Why is it critical to stay disentangled from the *affairs of this life*?

1.) How can you do this?

4. In Colossians 4:17, Paul exhorts Archippus to *take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord*. All Christians have a ministry in the body of Christ. All parts of the body are necessary and have an important function. How does this exhortation apply to you?

FIFTH DAY: Read Colossians 4:18

1. Verse 18 concludes this glorious epistle. Paul usually had a secretary or scribe write his letters for him. (See Romans 16:22) His custom was to authenticate the letter by writing his signature and his blessing with his own hand. What does he ask the Colossians to *remember*?
 - a. What does this mean?
2. *Remember my bonds* was not a plea for sympathy, but was a reminder of Paul's suffering and sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel. How does Paul's imprisonment give evidence of his love, obedience, and sacrifice?

3. With what phrase did Paul end His letter?
 - a. Paul always closed his letters by commending others to the *grace* which he himself had found sufficient for all things. What does II Corinthians 12:9a say about that *grace*?

1.) How has His *grace been sufficient* for you?

*Don't forget that when Paul wrote,
his chains moved over the page with his signature.*

SIXTH DAY: Review Colossians 4:12-18

1. Reflect on Colossians 4:12-18. From one of these men's lives choose a quality that you desire the Lord to mold into your life.
2. Recall the description Paul gave for Epaphras' prayer life.
 - a. How does this challenge you?
3. Contrast the character of Luke and Demas. Record what you see.
4. In what way is Paul's life an example for you?
5. Share how the study of these men's lives has reinforced the need for godly character in your life.

*When wealth is lost, nothing is lost;
when health is lost, something is lost;
when character is lost, all is lost!*
- anonymous

Colossians 4:12-18

VERSE

WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

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

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?

How does it apply to you personally?