

## Col212 – Building a Testimony - Colossians 4:2-18

We have a great text today  
to wrap up our study in Colossians

3 msg's ago we did - Put Off Your Old Flesh Nature  
Then we did - Put On Your New Life Traits  
& last week – it was How Then Should We Live?

& - funny enough – since we began that - I've had a situation  
simmering around the church - that I really need  
to “Put Into Action” ALL THREE of those Msgs

God is SO GOOD – to PUT Me in Situations  
that Bring to Life – His Living Word – AS I'm Teaching It

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& so Today – With all that has come  
in those Previous THREE Msgs

Now (& as a Final Truth) Colossians ends with  
Building A Testimony

Let's Pray

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Today – Paul is going to

- 1) Give us Instruction on how to Build A Testimony - &
- 2) He's going to give us Some Examples to follow

& so - In Col 4:2 – Paul begins with the Foundation  
for building a Great Testimony in our Lives

## **Colossians 4:2 (NLT)**

**2 Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.**

**If you want to build a great testimony in your Life**

Start by **Devoting yourself to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart**

**Devote yourself means;**

to be **constant, persevering, & tireless in prayer**

**& Devote yourself to Prayer - With an ALERT Mind**

**Maybe Alert to What's going on around you**

**Maybe Alert to What (or Who) NEEDS prayer around you**

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**AND . . . Devote yourself to Prayer - with a thankful heart**

**Developing a Thankful Heart**

**has tremendous power in our lives**

It **causes** us to **view everything - Differently**

**So – to begin Building A Real Testimony in Your Life**

**FIRST - Develop a Devoted, Focused Prayer Life  
With an always Thankful Heart**

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& when you're ready for your Prayer Life (& your testimony)  
to really take off - - *Start Praying for others*

### Colossians 4:3–4 (NLT)

*3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.* (Rome, house arrest, chained to Roman Soldier)  
*4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.*

Paul is asking for intercessory Prayer

Because Paul knew A Critical truth  
that unfortunately – we often forget

The success (or defeat) of a Ministry  
is determined – FIRST & foremost – On the Spiritual Plane

& the Most Important way - we Join the Work of the Ministry,  
is in Devoted, Focused - Intercessory Prayer

Thru-out Paul's letters he is constantly asking for Prayer  
From those who are willing to INTERCEDE for him

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### & notice Paul asks the church to pray

- 1) That he would have More Opportunities to speak about Jesus
- 2) Thathe would Proclaim the Message clearly, as he should

### Wait a minute Paul

Don't you want us to pray that you'd get out of Prison

**Don't you want us to pray that God would take out your enemies & make all the wrongs RIGHT - & vindicate you ??**

**NO**

**Paul asks for Prayer  
that MORE of God's Will would be accomplished in His life**

**RIGHT in his Present Circumstances**

He **doesn't ask** that God would **make** his **circumstances better**

**He asks** that **God** would **give him** (& those with him)  
**more opportunities** to speak about **Christ**

**Which** is **what got him in there** in the **first place** (as **V.3** says)

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**So** - When **you Pray** – **OR ask others** to **Pray** for you

**DON'T be so quick** to ask God  
to make **your circumstances etter**

**instead** – **Pray** that **MORE of God's Will**  
would be **accomplished** in **your life**

**Because I promise you**  
It is **God's Will being done** in your life

**THAT** is what **"Builds A Testimony"** – For HIS Glory

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**Now – Paul KNOWS - that ministry battles are WON in Prayer**

**HOWEVER – He also knows that we have got to LIVE WISELY**

**& so now we see – The PRACTICAL Side  
Of Building A Testimony – in our lives**

**Colossians 4:5 (NLT)**

***5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.***

**WISDOM – is the Right Application of Knowledge**

We can't JUST have Knowledge about God – we have to know  
how to rightly APPLY that knowledge - in every situation

**& so - When we have an opportunity  
to Interact with an unbeliever**

**We've got to Rightly Apply – What we know is Right !**

This takes EVERYTHING we've learned in the Last THREE Msgs

- 1) Putting off our Flesh Nature
  - 2) Putting on our New Life Traits in Christ
  - 3) Rightly Applying our New Life Traits – in all of our Relationships
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& there's one more Crucial Thing – To Building A Testimony

& it is HARDER than anything we've talked about so far

### Colossians 4:6 (NLT)

***6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.***

The Only Way this is going to happen  
is if we are Walking in the Spirit

If, in the Power of the Holy Spirit  
We have Crucified our Fleshly, Sin Nature

& we have immersed ourselves in our New Life Traits in Christ

& we have Rightly Applied our New Life Traits  
To our Relationships & our Conversations

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***THEN – Our conversations can be Gracious & Attractive***

& only then - will we have the Right Response  
for everyone around us

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(again) - ***Let your conversation be gracious***

**God's Grace** - is us giving that person  
***“what they do not deserve”***

& this can **DEFINITELY** *only be done*  
if the **Holy Spirit** is in **full control** of your **conversation**

& then **V.6** says: ***Let your conversation be “attractive”***  
- Or **SAVORY** – Like **Salt on Food**

**In conversation – we are to**

- 1) “**give** that **person** what they **do not deserve** (Grace)
- 2) “**make** our **conversation** **Attractive** (Savory)

**SO - - To Build a Testimony**

- 1) **Devote Yourself** to **Prayer**
  - 2) **Live Wisely**
  - 3) **Make** the **Most** of **Every Opportunity**
  - 4) **Speak** with **GRACE** in a **Right Response** to everyone
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**That** is **Awesome** (& practical) **Counsel**  
on how to **Build A Testimony**

& **now** – **from V.7 on** – **Paul lists** some of the **Servants**  
who **did** - **Build their Testimonies**

& as we **go thru** their names  
**I’d encourage you** – to **ASK YOURSELF**

<b><u>Am I Building a Testimony LIKE THAT</u></b>
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**Colossians 4:7–8 (NLT)**

**7 Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting**

*along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord's work.*

*8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you.*

**Tychicus** – carried **3 of Paul's letters** (Eph, Col, Phile)

He often **traveled** with Paul - & was often **Paul's Messenger**

He was a "**Beloved Brother**",  
"**Faithful Helper**", "**Serving in the Lord's Work**"

<b><u>Are you Building a Testimony like THAT ?</u></b>
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### **Colossians 4:9 (NLT)**

*9 I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that's happening here.*

**Onesimus** – is the **runaway slave** (orig from Colossae)  
& the letter of **Philemon** is about his **conversion** & **repentance**

& **He** is most **probably carrying** with him  
the **Letter to Philemon** (his **master**) at this **point**

Paul is **sending him back** – In **Repentance**  
to be **Reconciled** to his **master**

<b><u>Are you Building a Testimony like THAT ?</u></b>
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## **Colossians 4:10(a) (NLT)**

***10 Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings . . .***

**Aristarchus** [*AIR-IHS-TAR-KUS*] – is from the church in Thessalonica

**He went** with Paul to **take an offering** to Jerusalem

**He was** with Paul at the **Riot in Ephesus**

**He went** with Paul **to Rome**

**AND** ended up **in Prison** WITH Paul there

**He** never **Flinched** – **He** never **Looked back** –

& He **suffered with Paul** for the **sake** of the **Gospel**

<b><u>Are you Building a Testimony like THAT ?</u></b>
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## **Colossians 4:10(b) (NLT)**

***10 . . . and so does Mark, Barnabas's cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way.***

**this** is **THE John-Mark**

Who **deserted Paul & Barnabas** in **Acts 13**

& in **Acts 15** – **because** of him – **there** was **such** a **conflict**  
between **Paul & Barnabas** - that they **went their separate ways**

But **John-Mark** has **been**

**Redeemed & Restored** as a **faithful minister** -

& **he will continue** to be - **until** the **end** of **Paul's Life**

<b><u>Are you Building a Testimony like THAT ?</u></b>
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### **Colossians 4:11 (NLT)**

***11 Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been!***

***Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus***

***were the only Jewish Believer's with Paul at this point***

***They were ALL - STILL Working for the Kingdom of God  
& were ALL a Great Comfort to Paul***

***Are you Building a Testimony like THAT ?***

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### **Colossians 4:12–13 (NLT)**

***12 Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God.***

***13 I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis.***

***Epaphras – was The Pastor of Colossae,  
who brought news of the church to Paul in Prison***

***He always prayed HARD – in Intercession for the church -  
praying for their strength & maturity***

***Are you Building a Testimony like THAT ?***

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## **Colossians 4:14 (NLT)**

***14 Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas.***

**Dr. Luke - The Apostle - was with Paul,**

**& was probably finishing writing the book of Acts about now**

**But Sadly – Demas was also with Paul**

**& He was writing HIS OWN testimony**

## **Later - 2 Timothy 4:10 says (NLT)**

***10 Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life***

<b><i><u>Please – Don't make THAT Your Testimony</u></i></b>
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## **Colossians 4:15–16 (NLT)**

***15 Please give my greetings to our brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house.***

***16 After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them.***

The “**House Church**” of **Laodicea** - met in the house of **Nympha**

about **30 years later** – **Jesus** would **send** a **Letter** to this **church**  
thru the **Apostle John** in the **book of Revelation**

**This church** becomes **the church** that **Jesus** calls – **LUKEWARM**

**& he promises to SPEW them out of his mouth**

<b><i><u>I Pray – you are NOT Building a Testimony like THAT !</u></i></b>
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In Col 4:17 – Paul sends out an exhortation to Ar-Kip-Us  
to be sure to - “Build His Testimony”

### Colossians 4:17 (NLT)

*17 And say to Archippus, “Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you.”*

& Finally – The Apostle PAUL  
Closes his own letter

### Colossians 4:18 (NLT)

*18 HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL. Remember my chains. May God’s grace be with you.*

Paul the apostle –  
ALWAYS seeking more of God’s Will in his life

He was NEVER focused on His Circumstances

But ALWAYS focused on God’s Will  
in the Midst of His Circumstances

<u>Let’s Pray</u> That we would <u>Build a Testimony</u> - like <u>THAT !!</u>
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I mentioned at the start  
that I have a situation simmering around the church

where I really need – to “Put Into Action”  
this entire section of Colossians

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I am so Grateful for the current "Spiritual Health" of this Church

& I am so Grateful for what I see God "Doing"  
for the Next Generation of this church

& so, I shouldn't be surprised, that the enemy is again TRYING  
to stop us – from Building a Good Testimony

& so I really want to ask you to PRAY with us - FOR UNITY

True Unity - with Christ - and with one another  
& for us to Continue to Build our TESTIMONY – As a Church

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THE ENEMY is at work

But please – listen to me very closely – THE ENEMY HAS NO FACE  
The Enemy Has No Face

People are NOT the enemy  
People are simply USED by the enemy

& the Primary way that people are used by the Enemy,  
is by the Enemy stirring up our FLESH

& we CAN ALL BE USED by the enemy  
everyone single one of us – including me

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So – We have a Situation going on  
Where the enemy is trying to ignite a Major Conflict

It involves a person who does NOT attend the church

It involves Slander of me personally - & of this church  
& an attempt to bring Division into the church

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& So – in line with this message  
I want to ask you to PRAY with us, & PRAY for us

Pray for the Unity and Protection  
of every person who attends here

& Pray for the *Testimony GOD is Building Here*

And please - keep your Spiritual Eyes open

Recognize Slander and Division when you see it  
Even if it is Subtle - & cloaked in Bible verses

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This is really hard for me, because

I am called to apply the Truths  
of THIS Section of Colossians – to THIS situation

I am called to crucify my own flesh  
& walk in The Spirit & in Grace toward all people

BUT I am also called to PROTECT the UNITY of the church

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**Our Purpose** – is to **Build a Testimony** for **Christ** here  
both for us **individually** - and for us as a **Church**

& **believe me** – **Possibly** the **hardest thing** I've ever done

is **try** to **Respond Correctly** to **someone** who is **Slandering me**  
& **the church**, & **attempting** to **Sow Division** here

**The truth** is - I've **NEVER handled** it **successfully**  
& I've had **PLENTY of Opportunities** (more than enough)

& So – **I AM PRAYING**

The **LEADERSHIP TEAM** is **Praying**

& I'm asking **YOU TO PRAY** with us

**That we** – As **a Church** – would **handle this one**  
**Correctly** & **Successfully**

& **that we** – **Individually** & as **a church** – would **continue** to  
**Build our Testimony** for **Jesus Christ**, right here

So - **Let's pray** for **Unity & Communion** with **One Another**  
**AS we prepare** to **receive Communion together**

**Let's Pray**