

CHRIST ABOVE ALL #7

Colossians 4:2-18

8/8/2021
Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE – participate, Questions/Comments

SLIDE 2 – LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS *BACKGROUND

- Written by Paul (& Timothy), from prison in Rome in approx. 62 AD –
- **SYNCRETISM** – combo of different religions, beliefs, thoughts – *contradictory*
 - Correcting *false/wrong teaching* by expounding on *good teaching*
 - No combo of Christ + other philosophies → personal relationship w/God

SLIDE 3 – **THIS IS HOW WE DO IT – RECAP**

- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts & lives
- Be thankful in ALL things
- **WHATEVER** you do, do it ALL in the Name of Christ, giving thx to God thru Him
 - Motivation – Inspiration

SLIDES 4-6– COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

SLIDE 7 – DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER

- Devote yourselves to prayer – talking/interacting w/God – in all/about all things
 - Praise, worship, thanks, requests, intercessions
- Be watchful & thankful –
 - Watch & pray – to be alert, aware, vigilant – temptation etc. **Mt 26:41**
 - Be thankful – helps us avoid selfish/self-focused prayers (needy/bless me)
 - **THINK James 4 selfishness & Matt 7 ask seek knock**

SLIDE 8 – PRAY FOR US (TOO)

- Pray for those in roles of leadership/pastoring etc. for effectiveness in our roles
- Communication of the message → OPEN DOORS (receptivity)
 - Proclaim the mystery of Christ (that which was hidden, now revealed)
 - Proclaim message of the GGN – CLEAR & CONCISE
 - **Acts 16** – HS says “NO” to Asia; Doors that are shut?
 - **Acts 17** – Athens – little to no response to Paul’s rhetoric

SLIDE 9 – BE WISE HOW YOU (INTER)ACT

- Christ-followers – we’re always ON; be wise how you act towards outsiders
 - Our lives are a testimony/story of Christ → be WISE w/that
 - We reflect Christ & tell a story about Him (who, what, why, how, where)
 - Taking God’s Name in vain → other ideas about swearing to/on God
 - Interpersonal interactions (family, friends, co-workers, strangers)
 - Social media & My rights
- Conversations FULL of grace, seasoned w/salt – **Matt 5:13** (salt of the earth)
 - Christ-like communications; light & preservation (illumination, saving)
 - Know how (& whether) to answer everyone – sometimes, be quiet

SLIDES 10-20 – COLOSSIANS 4:7-18

SLIDE 21 – FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Personal greetings, introductions of co-workers, instructions for action
 - Team sent from Paul to deliver letters, bring news, encourage churches in Ephesus, Laodicea, Colossae (+ Philemon)
- Tychicus – dear, faithful, brother & co-worker; **Acts, Ephesians, 2Tim., Titus**
- Onesimus (useful) – former slave/convert – partner w/Paul
- We are a part of this Christian family line – this is our story too (faithful servant)

SLIDE 22 – RESTORATION (IN PASSING)

- Onesimus – runaway slave now returning to Philemon (master) – & brother
- John Mark, cousin of Barabbas, traveling w/Paul (after **Acts 15** breaking away)
- All the men here (except Justus) are Jewish Christians (minister to Gentiles)
 - Aristarchus, Epaphras, Luke, Demas

SLIDE 23 – GREETINGS & BLESSINGS

- From Paul & his team to the locals – & to Nympha & church in her house
- Paul's partnering w/Priscilla (& Aquila) & endorsement of Nympha, Chloe
 - Women in ministry leadership vs. "I do not permit"
- Letter to Laodicea – you 2 churches exchange letters & read them
 - Paul's letter to Laodicea lost – 3rd Corinthian letter too
- Archippus – "Complete the ministry ..."
- I write this greeting with my own hand – use of secretary to write
- Remember Paul in chains; imprisoned, suffering, care for needs, prayer
 - GRACE BE WITH YOU

SLIDE 21 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

SLIDE 22 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace." So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."*

SLIDE 23 – PRAYER IS AVAILABLE