

Where Do We Go From Here?

15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." 18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. (ESV)

Even though this was written from Paul to Colossae, this is an inspired letter of God that is relevant to us today. We, as a local church, can make great applications from this text. If the Spirit of God was carrying Paul along to write what God wanted to be written, then God was communicating His heart, His mind, and His vision for a local church.

GOD TOLD US WHERE TO GO FROM HERE.

Where do we go from here? 4 places. I believe there are 4 places God wants the Village Church to go.

Place #1 - Go out to other people - the place of investment.

4:15

15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

This is their very first assignment - Go a few miles over to the next town and visit your family members, your fellow Christians in Laodicea. While you're at it, say hi to those at Nympa's

God is telling them, and He is telling us, to think beyond ourselves. Go out and invest yourself in other people. Think externally.

What might it look like for you to go out and invest in other people?

Place #2 - Go back to His Word - the place of nourishment.
4:16

16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

A Christian gets his/her nutrition from the Bible. That's where we are fed. In the Bible, you'll get to see how God leads His people through life. From the Bible, you'll get encouragement knowing that what you're doing for the Lord is not in vain.

God's heart for the local church is that they are all about His Word (1 Timothy 4:13).

Have you been going back to the place of nourishment?
Have you daily been going back to God's Word? Or have
you been going back to something else?

Place #3 - Go on to His call for you - the place of
fulfillment. **4:17**

*17 And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that
you have received in the Lord."*

Paul commands the whole church. He says, "You tell
Archippus to stay focused on what God called you to do!"
Archippus may have been the pastor of the church in
Colossae at this time. It appears he was the son of Philemon,
and he may have had the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher.

What has God gifted you to do for the benefit and building
up of the Church? What ministry has God given to you?
What ministry have you received from the Lord? Go after
that. Go on to what He's called you to do.

Place #4 - Go for what matters most - the place of His will.
4:18

*18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember
my chains. Grace be with you.*

Paul wanted to make sure and sign off with his own personal handwriting, so there would be no doubt that this message was from Paul. He had a unique recognizable handwriting.

What does he mean by “remember my chains”? Warren Wiersbe said it would remind the Colossians how much Paul loves them, and that he was willing to be in prison to share the message of the gospel with them. Norman Giesler and Dr. Constable said this would prompt them to pray for him.

I wonder if Paul was saying to them and us, even if you have to suffer, going for what matters most is worth it. No matter what opposition comes your way, it's worth it to live in the center of God's will. Even if life is hard for you to serve the Lord, Jesus is worth it.

God has told us where to go from here.

- 1- Go out to other people - the place of investment.
- 2- Go back to the Word of God - the place of nourishment.
- 3- Go on to His call for you- the place of fulfillment.
- 4- Go for what matters most - the place of His will.