

## ***Churches that Change the World***

In the book of Acts, when the apostle Paul and a small group of his friends arrived in Europe, people said about them, “*These men... have turned the world upside down.*”

**How does a small, seemingly insignificant group of Christians change the world?**

I believe Colossians chapter 4 gives us the answer.

Even though Paul had never personally visited Colossae, he wanted great things for that church. There is no doubt Paul wanted this church to be the kind of church Jesus could use to turn the world upside down.

So when Paul closes this letter, his final instructions are intentional. His encouragement is focused on helping this church become strong and genuinely useful in God’s hands. And what he says may surprise you.

**CHURCHES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD  
STAY FAITHFUL IN THE BASICS.**

**What are the basics?** Paul highlights four of them in this chapter. 4 basic ingredients that produce churches that change the world.

## **Ingredient #1 — Prayer (Colossians 4:2–4)**

Churches that change the world are built by people who depend on God more than their strategy.

*“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”*

Prayer doesn't come naturally.

We don't accidentally pray.

Our minds don't drift into prayer.

Prayer requires focus. It requires endurance. It requires watchfulness.

Prayer is not about convincing God to give you what you want. Prayer is about God giving you what He wants—and what God wants is always best. Even when it doesn't feel that way in the moment.

## **Ingredient #2 — Evangelism (Colossians 4:5–6)**

Churches that change the world take the gospel seriously in everyday conversations.

Evangelism is simply proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ—that sinners are justified before God by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. And

when that message is believed, lives are changed forever.

In verses 5 and 6, Paul teaches us how to live and speak the right way among people who do not yet believe. He gives 3 instructions.

**1. Walk in wisdom**

**2. Redeem the time**

**3. Speak with gentleness**

### **Ingredient #3 – Teamwork (Colossians 4:7–15)**

Ministry is never a solo act. It has never been about a lone ranger doing the work of God. Churches that change the world do so because people work together.

Churches that change the world are built by people just like you—who are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in their own lives and obedient when God nudges them to act.

In verses 7–15, Paul goes behind the scenes and lets us see his team. Name after name, face after face. And as you listen to these names, I want you to ask yourself a simple question: *Where do I fit?*

**Tychicus** - ran errands.

**Onesimus** - new reputation.

**Aristarchus** - burden bearer.

**Mark** - second chances.

**Jesus/Justus** - man of integrity.

**Epaphras** - prayer warrior.

**Luke** - secular skills used for the glory of Christ.

**Demas** - a warning: Faithfulness over the long haul is not guaranteed.

**Nympha** - facilitated local church ministry.

Thriving churches that change the world are not built around one pastor or preacher. They are built around Jesus, and the work is done by everyone—together.

## **Ingredient #4 – The Word of God (Colossians 4:16–18)**

Churches that change the world rally around the Word of God.

As Paul closes this inspired letter, he points the Colossians back to this basic commitment to the Word. And he gives us three simple responsibilities: **read it, share it, and obey it.**

Churches that rally around the Word of God become very well grounded in 2 essential truths.

**#1 - Justification by faith (Galatians 2:16)**

**#2 - The Deity of Christ (Colossians 1:15-19; 2:9).**

Churches that change the world let the Bible say what the Bible says—and they adjust their thinking to it.

The moment a church drifts away from the Word of God is the moment it stops changing the world.

Churches that change the world stay faithful in the basics: prayer, evangelism, teamwork, and the Word of God.