

# Colossians 4

Wisdom

Ch 4. Paul encourages believers to be wise toward unbelievers  
Make the most of every opportunity...Even in the midst of deception

## I. Employers

1 **Masters**, give your bondservants what is **just and fair**, knowing that you also have a **Master in heaven**.

**Ephesians 6:9** [Servants honor masters as to the Lord] And you, **masters, do the same things to them**, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Christian Employers  
Be Just and Fair. Why?

- Because God said so. Because you're employed by the Lord
- Because that's how God treats you
- Because justice/equity are attributes of God which draw men to Him

## II. Christian Graces

2 **Continue earnestly in prayer**, being **vigilant in it** with **thanksgiving**; 3 meanwhile **praying also for us**, that God would **open to us a door** for the word, to speak the **mystery of Christ**, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, **as I ought to speak**.

Paul Encourages the Saints to continue to Pray Earnestly  
IOWs Continue in Strength...by Continuing to Pray

- **Pray Vigilantly:** lit. Wakeful.

The Devil doesn't Sleep...Prowls waiting for you to Fall Asleep

**Luke 18:1** ...men always ought to **pray and not lose heart**...will the Son of Man find faith?

- **Pray w/Thanksgiving** receive a Bonus; Peace

**Philippians 4:6** **Be anxious for nothing**, but **in everything by prayer** and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and minds** through Christ Jesus.

- **Pray for me** and those with me...

**Ephesians 6:19** [Pray] ...for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may **open my mouth boldly** to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an **ambassador in chains**; that in it **I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak**.

- **Pray for Open Doors for the Gospel**

**1 Corinthians 16:9** ...a great and effective **door has opened to me** [School of Tyrannus], and there are **many adversaries**.

- **V4 Pray that I may speak as I ought to speak**

We all should seek to speak as we ought to speak  
Boldness/Humility/Discretion. **IOWs...**

**5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.**  
**6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.**

Walk in Wisdom...Toward those on the Outside of the Church

- Knowing some are dying to know the truth
- Knowing that time is short
- Knowing that these days are evil. **And it was night...**

**Ephesians 5:15 ...walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 [People are watching] Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

Not Wasting Precious Time in Foolish Endeavors  
Redeeming the Time we are Given by Walking in Wisdom...

**Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.**

- **Walk in Wisdom:** Application of Knowledge...
- **Discretion, Discernment and Discipline.** rt. To learn

**Matthew 10:16 ...I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.**

- **Wise as Serpents:** Circumspect. Eyes open. Like snakes always hunted
- **Harmless as Doves:** Do no harm. How do we do harm to unbelievers?

We harm when we lie. When we are Hypocrites  
When our Practice does not match our Position

**Philippians 2:14 [Do not be drunk with wine but filled with the Holy Spirit] Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life...**

Speak to outsiders Grace Seasoned w/Salt?  
*IOWs Make 'em Thirsty for Living Water*

**Mark 9:50 Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another."** IOWs who you are in Christ

In classical writers **salt** expressed the wit with which conversation was flavored. [Peake]

Words can bring Life or Death to hearers...

**Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words** are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

**Proverbs 18:21 Death and life** are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Different People/Different Methods/Same Gospel

- **Appropriate to each individual:** IOWs Not always the same spiel

**1 Peter 3:15** ...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be **ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a **reason for the hope** that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a **good conscience**

- **Ch's. 1-2** Be prepared to **reject bad doctrine** by knowing truth
- **Ch. 4** Be prepared to **answer bad doctrine** by knowing truth

Be Equipped for Every Opportunity

Have an Answer **OR** Know where to find it. BLB, Got Questions, Commentaries, etc.

### III. Final Greetings

7 **Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will **tell you all the news about me**. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may **know your circumstances and comfort your hearts**, 9 with **Onesimus**, a **faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you**. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

**Ephesians 6:2** [I'm an ambassador in chains but...] that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, **Tychicus**, a beloved brother and **faithful minister in the Lord**, will **make all things known to you**; 22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts.

- **Tychicus:** lit. Fateful. Impending bad news. **Not any more...**

Tychicus is coming to you from Rome

Tell you about me/Hear about you/Bringing Comfort. Jesus changes people

- Tychicus coming w/**Onesimus:** lit. Profitable/Useful
  1. Slave of Philemon a believer in Colosse
  2. Onesimus escaped from Philemon
  3. Ended up in jail with Paul in Rome **and was saved**

Instead of Introducing Onesimus as the escaped slave I sent back to his master

Paul introduces Onesimus as a Faithful/Beloved Brother

**Now...One of You! Jesus changes people.**

- **Tychicus/Onesimus:** Bringing news to you from Rome

10 **Aristarchus** my **fellow prisoner greets you**, with **Mark** the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and **Jesus** who is called Justus. These are my **only fellow workers**

for the kingdom of God who are **of the circumcision**; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

- **Aristarchus:** lit. Best ruler. Now Servant leader
  1. Macedonian from Thessalonica
  2. Paul's companion during the Ephesian riot
  3. **Fellow prisoner with Paul in Rome...**

It seems that Aristarchus had an interesting habit of being with Paul in hard times. Some suggest that he actually made himself Paul's slave so that he could travel with him on this journey to Rome.

- Best Ruler to Servant Leader

**Matthew 23:11** ...he who is **greatest among you shall be your servant**. 12 And whoever **exalts himself will be humbled**, and he who **humbles himself will be exalted**.

- **Mark:** Cousin of Barnabas. Writer of Gospel of Mark. Before that went...
- **AWOL** on Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey. Freaks out cry mama!

**Acts 15:37** [2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey] ...Barnabas was determined to take with them John called **Mark**. 38 But Paul insisted that they should **not take with them the one who had departed** from them...and had **not gone with them to the work**. 39 Then the contention **became so sharp** that they parted from one another. And so **Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; 40 but Paul chose Silas and departed...**

- Mark and Paul together again:

**2 Timothy 4:11** Only Luke is with me. **Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.**

If Mark comes to Colossi... Welcome Him  
Paul and Mark had both changed...We are supposed to change

- **FYI:** If you've ever failed know you are welcome here
- **Jesus called Justus:** Nothing known other than Jewish like **Aristarchus and Mark**

**Jesus called Justus, Aristarchus, and Mark**  
**Only Jewish workers with Paul in Rome. So what? Peter was not there**

It is evident, therefore, that Peter was not now at Rome, or he certainly would have been mentioned in this list...there is no evidence that Peter ever saw Rome. [Clarke]

Fellow Workers for the Kingdom of God  
Proven to be a comfort to me

12 **Epaphras**, who is one of you, a **bondsman of Christ, greets you**, always **laboring fervently** for you in prayers, that you may **stand perfect** [tel'-i-os] and **complete** in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal [concern] for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

- **Epaphras Pastor of Colossi** in Rome now: Back/Forth

Paul called Epaphras a bondservant of Christ, using a phrase that he often applied to himself, but never to anyone else, except here and Philippians 1:1 where he speaks of himself and Timothy together as bondservants of Jesus. [Guzik]

- **Epaphras:** lit. Lovely. Bondservant. Willing servant.
- **Labored fervently** in prayer for Colossi: lit. Heavy toil to the extent of pain.

**Romans 15:30** ... I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you **strive together with me in prayers to God for me...**

- **Pastor Epaphras' Prayer?** God's people would stand Perfect/Complete Fully Assured as they matched Practice/Position by yielding to the HS

**Matthew 5:46** ... if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall **be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

- **Complete:** *tel'-i-os* Def. **Fully assured/Without fear**  
Assurance/Courage are by-products of obedience...

**1 John 4:17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.** 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love [God's love toward us reflected in actions toward others] casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- **Perfect/Complete:** *tel'-i-os* Lit. brought to its end, finished. Practice meets Position  
Pastor Epaphras prayed that God's people would stand Perfects and Complete...Fully assured/Without Fear through Obedience
- Seeing that made him happy...

**3 John 1:4** I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my **children walk in truth.**

**14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.** 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

- **Luke:** lit. Light-giving  
Beloved Physician and Paul's travel as of Act 16
  1. Luke not an Apostle
  2. Author of Luke/Acts
  3. Medical Doctor: E.g. Intricate details in both books
  4. In Rome with Paul and...
- **Demas:** lit. Governor of the people.
  1. **Fellow laborer** here and Philemon 1:24
  2. **Later goes AWOL:** Fell to heretics/flesh or both

**2 Timothy 4:9** [Paul's Swan Song] Be diligent to come to me quickly; <sup>10</sup>for **Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world,** and has departed for Thessalonica...

The six people who greeted the Colossians were connected with Paul in Rome, during the time of his house arrest and custody **before appearing on trial before Caesar.** [Guzik]

- Paul greeted over 100 friends in NT
- **V15 Greet** the house Church in Laodicea

#### **IV. Closing Exhortation/Blessing**

16 Now when this epistle is **read among you**, see that it is **read also in the church of the Laodiceans**, and that you **likewise read** the epistle from Laodicea.

- **Paul either...**
  1. Wrote a lost Epistle to Laodicea
  2. The Epistle to Laodicea was actually Ephesians

Either way Colossi and Laodicea were to read each other's letters from Paul

17 And say to **Archippus**, "**Take heed to the ministry** which you have **received in the Lord**, that you **may fulfill it.**"

**Philemon 1:1b** To... **Archippus our fellow soldier**, and to the **church in your house...**

- **Archippus:** lit. master of the horse [not a typo]
  1. **Possibly:** Philemon's son                      House church in Colossi
  2. **Maybe:** Pastor of Laodicea                      10 miles from Colossi
  3. **For sure Fellow Soldier**                      War against darkness. Discouraged?

- **Paul tells Colossians** to encourage Archippus to **get back on his horse**

Pay attention to the ministry you have received from the Lord  
**For us today. We each have a Ministry to fulfill...**

**1 Timothy 4:1** [Preach the Word] Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup> **forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods** which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; <sup>5</sup> for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. <sup>6</sup> If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a **good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith** and of the **good doctrine** which you have carefully followed.

It is the latter times/We are called to fulfill our ministries

**2 Timothy 4:5** ... be watchful in all things, endure afflictions... **fulfill your ministry.**

- Lessons from v 17 as per Guzik
  1. God gives ministries to His people
  2. True ministry is received in the Lord

3. Ministry may be left unfulfilled
4. We must take heed to our ministry in order to fulfill it
5. We should encourage others to fulfill their ministry

...as Paul has done in in the Book of Colossians

### 18 This salutation **by my own hand**—Paul.

- **Own Hand:** Also 1 Corinthians/2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians
- Epistles dictated by Paul to others/Paul Signs in big letters

### 18b ...Remember my **chains**.

Verdict from Ceasar will be given soon  
Pray for me...Visit with me

### 18c... Grace be with you. Amen.

## **The Book of Colossians**

The Apostle Paul encourages believers to be wise toward unbelievers  
To make the most of every opportunity...even in the midst of coming deception

Colossi perished in an earthquake about five years later, so...  
Redeem the Time. The Night is far spent. The Day is near. Fulfill your Ministry