

COLOSSIANS 4: OPEN DOORS, WATCHFUL PRAYER, PRISON CHAINS

**Colossians 3:22-24, 4:1-18**

***<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey those who are your human masters in everything, not with eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, <sup>24</sup> knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. <sup>25</sup> For the one who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. Colossians 3:22-25 NASB***

- ***Paul instructs those in slavery that they have a heavenly inheritance that is based on faith and not on social class...***
- ***Their work was 'unto the Lord', not just to an earthly master.***

***Masters, grant your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Colossians 4:1 NASB***

- ***Paul instructs slave owners to treat their slaves justly and fairly, recognizing that they serve their master in heaven and should do it well.***

***<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup> praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear in the way that I ought to proclaim it. <sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Colossians 4:2-6 NASB***

- ***Devote yourself to prayer...be earnest, unwearied, and steadfast in your prayer life.***
- ***Be alert and intent in prayer...watchful and aware in praying...***
  - ***What are you praying?***
  - ***What are you hearing? (Revelation)***
  - ***Do it all with thanksgiving. (v2)***

- ***Paul asks them to pray for his apostolic team...that God will 'open up a door for the Word they preach.'***

***"for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." 1 Corinthians 16:9 NASB***

- ***A door for effective service.***

***"Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord." 2 Corinthians 2:12 NASB***

- ***"A door opened for him in the Lord..."***
- ***"I had a wide opportunity in the Lord...Moffat***
- ***"An obvious God-given opportunity." Phillips***
- ***"Even though, in the Lord's providence a door should open before me." Weymouth***

***<sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Colossians 4:5-6***

- ***Be wise towards non-believers...discreet and opportunistic...(being alert in prayer will help you with this!)***
- ***Our approach to non-believers should be pleasant and winsome and our response to them should be laced with grace and 'seasoned with salt'...***

***<sup>7</sup> As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. <sup>8</sup> For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; <sup>9</sup> and with him is Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your own. They will inform you about the whole situation here. <sup>10</sup> Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas' cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him); <sup>11</sup> and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have***

***proved to be an encouragement to me. <sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of your own, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. <sup>13</sup> For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup> Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and Demas does also. Colossians 4:7-14 NASB***

- ***Paul's apostolic team***
  - ***Mostly gentle believers...***
  - ***Tychicus – Paul's messenger to the Colossians along with Onesimas. (v7-9)***
  - ***Aristarchus, Paul's fellow prisoner, Mark, with whom Paul has a history, and Justus, all of whom are of Jewish heritage. (10-11)***
  - ***Epaphras...he is a Colossian, and he brought the gospel to the city...Paul describes him as a 'bond servant' of Jesus...He is a true intercessor.***
  - ***He prays consistently for the Colossians, laboring for them in prayer for their spiritual growth and for the fullness of God's will in their lives (v12-14)***
  - ***Luke and Demas are also part of this team...Demas will later desert Paul and the team. (see Acts 16:10) (v14)***

***<sup>15</sup> Greet the brothers and sisters who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house. <sup>16</sup> When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part, read my letter that is coming from Laodicea. <sup>17</sup> Tell Archippus, "See to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, so that you may fulfill it." <sup>18</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you. Colossians 4:15-18 NASB***

- ***Paul instructs them to have this letter read in their own church and to the house church led by Nympha.***
- ***He entrusts Archippus (Paul's 'fellow soldier', see Philemon 2) to fulfill his call to ministry.***
- ***Finally, Paul reminds them of his 'chains'.***
- ***He signs the letter in his own handwriting and blesses them with a blessing of God's favor and presence.***

