

Faithfulness | Colossians 4:2-18

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison--that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions--if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. Give my greeting to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 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. And say to Achippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Faithfulness in Prayer

1. Prayer requires:
 - a. Meditation;
 - b. Heart work;
 - c. Word work;
 - d. Gratitude;
 - e. Intercession

Faithfulness in Missional Living

1. Walking in wisdom requires discernment;
 - a. "Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one." (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)
2. Our speech involves:
 - a. Grace
 - b. Seasoning
 - c. Humility
 - d. Clarity
 - i. And he [Phillip] and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "God over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (Acts 8:27-31)

Faithfulness in Serving

1. Serving involves friendships rooted in a love for Jesus, the Church, and develop through the good, bad, and ugly
 - a. Tychicus
 - b. Onesimus
 - c. Aristarchus
 - d. Mark
 - e. Justus
 - f. Epaphras
 - g. Luke
 - h. Demas
 - i. Nympha
 - j. Laodiceans
 - k. Achippus
 - l. The Lord Jesus
 - i. "Greater love has no one that this, that someone lay down his life for his friends...no longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:13 & 15)

Benediction | 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Now may our Lord Jesus himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.