

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Pray / Prayer, we must be wide awake when it comes to prayer; it must always be on our minds and lips, 4:2. Paul wants the Colossians to pray that God would provide him and his team opportunities to tell non-Christians about the mystery concerning Christ, i.e., that they too can become one with the God of the universe and live transformed lives from the moment they enter into relationship with Him, 4:3. Like Paul, Epaphras is constantly laboring fervently in prayer for the Colossians, 4:12 (other places this appears: 1:3, 9).
2. Giving thanks to God, our prayers should always contain gratitude towards God for everything He does for us each and every day. But they should also contain a gratitude that is based on the fact that we believe God will answer every one of our requests, 4:2 (other places this appears: 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:17).
3. God, Paul wants the Colossians to ask God to open a door of opportunity to present the mystery about Jesus to non-Christians, i.e., that everything about their lives can be personally transformed by Him, 4:3 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 19, 25, 27; 2:1-2, 9, 12, 19; 3:1, 3, 6, 12, 15, 17, 22).
4. Mystery, Paul wants Colossians to ask God to let him reveal to non-Christians the mystery about Jesus, i.e., that Jesus' presence can take up residence in their hearts and lives too and transform their world, 4:3 (other places this appears: 1:26-27; 2:2).
5. Jesus Christ, Paul is in prison because he told people about the mystery concerning Christ, i.e., about the life-transformation that Jesus brings to every individual who believes in Him and personally walks with Him, 4:3. Tychicus is a fellow servant and faithful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, 4:7. Paul encourages Archippus to fulfill the ministry that Jesus gave him and that he has *in* the Lord, 4:17 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21-22, 24, 28; 2:2, 3, 5, 6-7, 8, 9, 10, 11-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20; 3:1, 2-3, 4, 10-11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 4:1).
6. Chains / Prisoner, the reason Paul is in prison is because he proclaims the mystery about Christ's power to transform lives to the lost of this world, 4:3. Aristarchus is a fellow prisoner with Paul for proclaiming the same message about Christ, 4:10. Paul wants the Colossians to remember his imprisonment, 4:18.
7. Gospel, Paul wants the Colossians to ask God to grant him opportunities to present the mystery about Christ to non-Christians, which is the very reason why he's in prison, 4:3. Paul wants the Colossians to ask God to enable him to present the mystery about Christ the way he should to those who don't know Jesus, 4:4. Paul wants the Colossians to always present the mystery about Christ graciously and as something that the non-Christian desires to have, 4:6 (other places this appears: 1:5, 22-23, 26-27, 28; 2:2-23).
8. Walking daily with the Lord / "in Christ" / "in Him," Paul wants the Colossians to walk in Christ when they go to present the mystery about Christ to those who don't know Jesus, i.e., to present the message of salvation in Christ the way Jesus did when He reached out to the lost, 4:5. Tychicus is a fellow slave who lives life in the Lord, 4:7 (other places this appears: 1:2, 4, 6, 9-10, 22-23, 27, 28; 2:5, 6-7, 10, 11-13, 16-18, 19, 20).
9. Wisdom / Knowledge / Understanding, Paul wants the Colossians to walk in Christ's wisdom when they give the Gospel to the lost, i.e., to present the message of salvation the way Jesus did, 4:5 (other places this appears: 1:9-10, 28; 2:2, 3, 8-10, 14, 16-18, 20-23).

Colossians Chapter 4

10. Grace, Paul wants the Colossians' speech to always be gracious when they present the Gospel to non-Christians, 4:6. Paul closes his letter by telling the Colossians that He wants God's grace to be with them, 4:18 (other places this appears: 1:2, 5-6; 3:16).
11. Slave / Bond-servant, Tychicus is a fellow bond-servant of Paul's, i.e., they are both slaves of Jesus, 4:7. Epaphras is also a slave of Jesus, 4:12 (other places this appears: 1:7; 3:11, 22; 4:1).
12. Love, Tychicus is a beloved brother to Paul, 4:7. Onesimus is a beloved brother to Paul, 4:9. Luke is a beloved brother to Paul, 4:14 (other places this appears: 1:4, 7-8, 13; 2:2).
13. Faith / Faithful, Tychicus is a faithful minister of the Goodnews concerning Christ, 4:7. Onesimus is a faithful brother, 4:9 (other places this appears: 1:2, 4, 7, 22-23; 2:5, 7, 12).
14. Minister, Tychicus is a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, 4:7 (other places this appears: 1:7, 23, 25).
15. Oneness with Jesus/New Man/Body of Christ, because Paul, Tychicus, Onesimus, and the Colossians are one with Christ's Body, Paul is sending Tychicus and Onesimus to report all the things going on with Paul and his team in Rome, 4:7-9. Oneness with Jesus will cause you to give your life for others the way Paul, Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas, Justus, Epaphras, Luke and Nymphas did, 4:7-15 (other places this appears: 1:4-8, 9-12, 13, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29; 2:2, 5, 6-7, 9-10, 11-13, 19, 20; 3:1-2, 3, 4, 9-11, 12-17, 18-4:1).
16. Sacrificing your life for others, Like Paul, Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas, Justus, Epaphras, Luke and Nymphas are sacrificing their lives for the service of others; they're all serving alongside Paul one is even in prison with him, 4:7-14. Paul wants the Colossians to sacrifice their lives for others the way he, Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Barnabas, Justus, Epaphras, Luke and Nymphas did, 4:2-15 (other places this appears: 1:4, 7, 14, 20, 21-22, 24, 28-29; 2:1-2, 11-15, 20).
17. Perfect / Complete, Like Paul, Epaphras is fighting tooth and nail, especially in prayer, to see the Colossians stand perfect and complete in all the will of God, 4:12 (other places this appears: 1:28; 2:10).
18. Church / His Body / church, Epaphras has a great zeal for those in the churches of Laodicea and Hierapolis, 4:13. Paul wants the Colossians to greet those in the church of Laodicea and those in Nymphas' home church, 4:15. Paul wants the Colossians to share their letter with the church of Laodicea and vice versa, 4:16 (other places this appears: 1:18, 24; 2:11-13, 19).