

## Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. When you give the Gospel to the non-Christian, **what** you say and **how** you say it are both important. You should explain the **what**, that is, you should explain everything that Christ will do for them: His death forever unites them to Himself and places them in His Kingdom. Because of this they're no longer bound to live life the way they used to, a philosophy that simply does not work. Instead Jesus will show them how to truly live. His wisdom will enable them to have a successful life at home, at work, wherever. Concerning the **how**, when you present all this it should come across as something desirable. The non-Christian should want what you have; they should want it the way they would a delicious meal, 4:2-6.
2. You should be close to the Christians around you; it should matter to you deeply what happens to them and how they're doing. This means that we'll be involved intimately in each other's lives, 4:7-9, 12-13.
3. In Scripture, there are many who made themselves slaves of Jesus, e.g., Paul, Tychicus, and Epaphras. What does it mean to make yourself a slave of Jesus? How should it affect us, especially our attitude (3:1-4:1)? We're supposed to be willing to put ourselves second, to sacrifice everything we are and have for Jesus, 4:7, 12.
4. You should be willing to lose your freedom for the cause of Christ, if you're not, you might want to ask yourself how you see your life: is it yours or Christ's, 4:10.
5. Giving the Gospel to someone doesn't end with the "Gospel speech." You should take them under your wing and show them how to truly walk with Jesus so that they will live every aspect of their lives the way Jesus did, every thought, every word, every action. In other words, so that they will be perfect and complete in everything that God desires for their life, 4:12-13. In other words, we're supposed to make disciples not simply believers. Does telling someone, "If you believe in Jesus, you won't go to hell," make them a disciple? How did Epaphras give the Gospel to the Colossians?
6. What should our Christian life look like as it relates to fellow Christians? We should be willing to spend whatever time and energy is necessary in order to show them how to live life perfect and complete the way Jesus did. In other words, so that everything they do, whether it's walking the dog or running for president, looks and sounds like Jesus, 4:12-13.
7. What does it mean to be a Christian, what does it mean to live out the message **Christ in you and you in Christ**? It means that you let Christ take over your life, that you think, speak, and act like Him, including sacrificing your life for others, 4:2-15.
8. What should oneness with Jesus cause you to do: pray vigilantly for yourself and others, seek the lost in this world in a loving manner, dedicate your life to Jesus, sacrifice your life for those around you, work diligently to see your brothers and sisters in Christ stand perfect in Him, 4:2-18. In other words, do you see the theme of Colossians played out in the lives of all those mentioned in Colossians 4? This is not just Paul teaching theology, he's pointing to himself and his team and saying, "By the way, I'm not just saying words here; what I told you in chapter 1, chapter 2, and chapter 3 we're living it out!"