

Colossians 4 Summarized

Sentences

4:2-4, continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 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, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

4:5-6, walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

4:7, Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.

4:8-9, I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.

4:10-11, Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 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.

4:12-13, Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

4:14, Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

4:15, greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house.

4:16, 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.

4:17, and say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

4:18, this salutation by my own hand -- Paul. Remember my chains. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

Paragraphs

4:2-6, Paul wants the Colossians to be in constant prayer, i.e., in constant conversation with God with a definite sense of expectation. He also wants them to pray for him and his team, that God would provide them opportunities to tell people about the *mystery of Christ* [i.e., that they too can be united with the God of the universe and guided by His wisdom 24/7] and that they will do so in a manner that is appealing and desirable instead of confrontational, which is exactly how he wants them to give the Gospel to non-Christians as they take advantage of every God-given opportunity.

4:7-9, Paul is sending Tychicus and Onesimus (a fellow Colossian) to update the Colossians on all that is going on with Paul and his team, news that will comfort their hearts.

4:10-11, Aristarchus, Mark—Barnabas' cousin and the one about whom the Colossians received instructions—and Justus send greeting to the Colossians. These men are the only fellow Jews who are working alongside Paul to further God's Kingdom; they've been a comfort to him.

4:12-15, Epaphras (another fellow Colossian) greets the Colossians. He's been fervently praying for them so that their relationship with Christ will be perfect and complete. In fact, Epaphras has a great zeal not only for those in Colossae, but for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis. Meanwhile, Luke and Demas also send their greetings and Paul wants the Colossians to greet the brethren in Laodicea and Nymphas and his home church.

4:16-17, Paul tells the Colossians to exchange letters with the church of Laodicea so that each will know the content of the other's letter. He also wants them to encourage Archippus to fulfill the ministry that he received in the Lord.

4:18, Paul closes the letter by signing it with his own hand and asks the Colossians to remember his imprisonment as he wishes them God's grace.

Whole Chapter

[At the close of his letter, Paul reveals how he and many others are living out the content of Colossians, i.e., they're living their lives in relationship with Christ: it is Jesus' thoughts, words and actions that guide them; this enables them to put their lives secondary, thus] Paul wants the Colossians to be in constant conversation with God expecting an answer. They should ask God to provide Paul and his team opportunities to present the "mystery of Christ" to the non-Christian [i.e., to let the non-Christian know that they too can have a tight relationship with the God of the universe as He guides them 24/7]. They should also ask God to give Paul the ability to present the Gospel in an appealing manner, which is how they should approach the non-Christian too. Tychicus and Onesimus will update them about Paul and his team. Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, Luke, and Demas greet the Colossians. And they should greet those in Laodicea and Nymphas and his home church. Epaphras, a fellow Colossian, also greets them; he's been praying constantly for them and others so that they will be in absolute harmony with God's will, i.e., so that their relationship with Christ will be perfect and complete. Paul also wants the Colossians and Laodiceans to exchange letters so that each will know the other's content. And he asks the Colossians to encourage Archippus to fulfill the ministry he received in the Lord. Finally, Paul signs the letter himself and asks them to remember his imprisonment as he wishes them God's grace. Amen.