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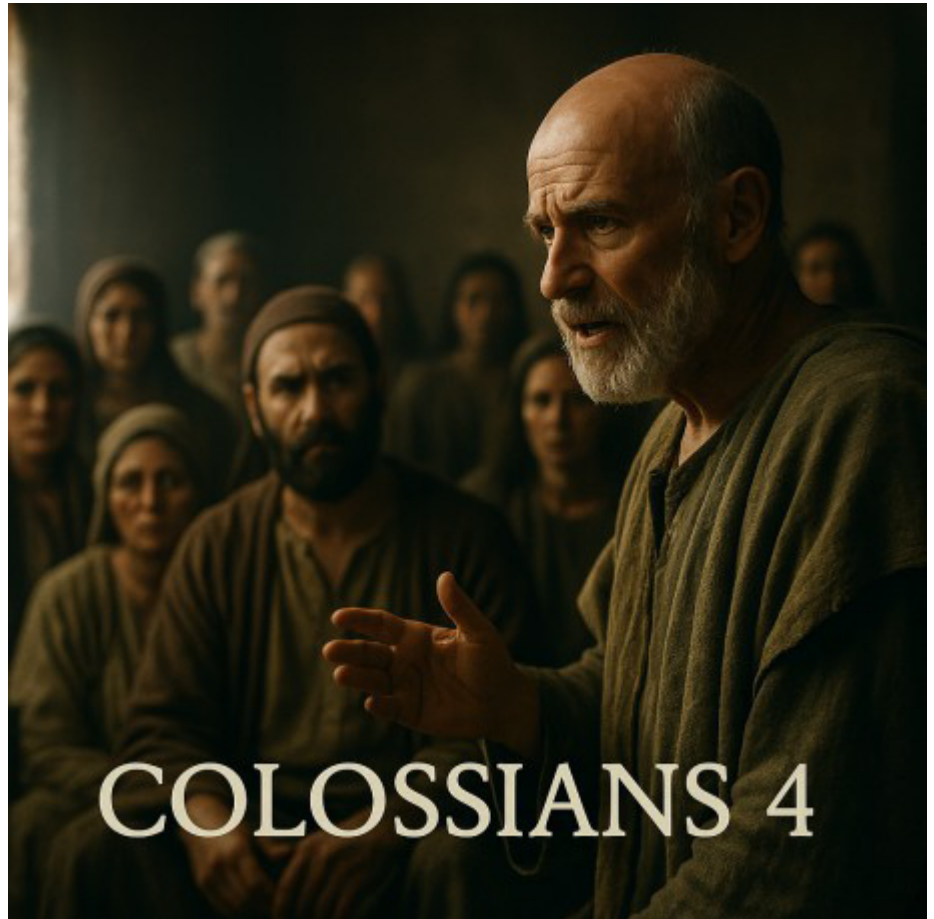
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**Colossians 4** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **Colossians 4**

### **Colossians 4:1**

Masters, grant your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

† Paul reminds masters that they too are under authority.

† Justice and fairness reflect the character of Christ as the true Master.

† The principle applies to all who exercise authority, leadership must reflect Christ's justice.

† Philo (On the Virtues 120) urged masters to treat servants with justice, though Paul's teaching grounds it in Christ.

### **Colossians 4:2-4**

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving, 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, that I may make it clear in the way that I ought to proclaim it.

† Paul urges continual, watchful prayer rooted in thanksgiving.

† Even in prison, Paul's concern is for the gospel to spread.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 56) urged the church to pray without ceasing for ministers of the word.

### **Colossians 4:5-6**

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

† Believers must live wisely before the watching world.

† Gracious and seasoned speech reflects Christ and draws outsiders.

† Josephus (Against Apion 2.218) noted how speech could either win or alienate, showing the importance of wise words.

### **Colossians 4:7-8**

As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. 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.

† Tychicus carried Paul's letters and encouragement to the churches.

† Fellowship and faithful service were essential to the spread of the gospel.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.4) records the journeys of faithful men like Tychicus who strengthened churches.

### **Colossians 4:9**

And with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your own. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

† Onesimus, once a runaway slave, is now called faithful and beloved.

† The gospel transforms social relationships into brotherhood in Christ.

### **Colossians 4:10-11**

Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings, and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions, if he comes to you, welcome him), 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.

† Paul names Jewish believers who labored with him in prison.

† Mark, once separated from Paul, is now restored to fellowship.

† Acts 15:37-39 records the earlier dispute over Mark, now healed in Christ.

### **Colossians 4:12-13**

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. For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

† Epaphras labored in prayer for the maturity and assurance of the churches.

† His intercession shows the unseen but powerful work of prayer.

### **Colossians 4:14**

Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and Demas as well.

† Luke, author of the Gospel and Acts, was a faithful companion of Paul.

† Demas is still in fellowship here, though later Paul would lament his departure (2 Timothy 4:10).

### **Colossians 4:15-16**

Greet the brothers and sisters who are in Laodicea, and also Nympha and the church that is in her house. 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.

† Early churches met in homes, like Nympha's, showing the simplicity of Christian gatherings.

† Paul's letters were to be read publicly and shared, affirming their authority as Scripture.

† The Muratorian Fragment later confirmed Paul's letters as authoritative for the church.

### **Colossians 4:17**

Tell Archippus, "See to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, so that you may fulfill it."

† Individual ministries are a sacred trust from the Lord.

† Archippus is charged to fulfill his calling faithfully.

### **Colossians 4:18**

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my

imprisonment. Grace be with you.

† Paul ends with his personal signature, reminding them of his chains.

† Grace remains his final word, grounding the church in Christ's unearned favor.

### **How it applies to us today**

† Colossians 4 reminds us that prayer, wise conduct, gracious speech, and faithful ministry are central to Christian life.

† Like Tychicus, Onesimus, Epaphras, and others, we are called to serve and encourage the body of Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, grace continues to strengthen and unite us as one body in Christ.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### **Source Index**

† Philo, On the Virtues 120 - justice toward servants

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 56 - prayer for ministers of the word

† Josephus, Against Apion 2.218 - the power of speech

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.4 - the journeys of Paul's companions

† Acts 15:37-39 - dispute over Mark

† Muratorian Fragment - early confirmation of Paul's letters as Scripture

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