

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 129--Colossians 4

Introduction: In chapter four Paul continues his application of the principles taught earlier in the letter. He gives specific instructions to masters and instructions to all believers in their efforts to reach the lost. Finally, he closes with personal greeting from himself and others.

Lesson aim: To encourage each Christian to reach out to the lost around him with prayerfulness and wisdom.

Instructions for master of slaves--Col. 4:1

1. Christian masters are instructed to treat their slaves how? (v. 1) What motivates them to do this?
2. Would you infer from these passages that the early church did or did not try to remove slavery from the Roman empire? How might we apply this principle to injustices we see in our society today?

Exhortations to prayer--Col. 4:2-4

1. To what did Paul encourage the Colossians to be devoted? (v. 2) Paul urged them to keep alert with what?
2. What special request did Paul make of the Colossians in their praying? (v. 3) How did Paul believe the gospel should be proclaimed?

Reaching the lost--Col. 4:5-6

1. How did Paul tell the Colossians to walk toward outsiders? (v. 4) What does it mean to “redeem the time” (KJV)? (v. 5)
2. Our speech should be with what? (v. 6) Seasoned with what? Is there a right way to respond to others?

Greetings--Col. 4: 7-18

1. How did Paul describe Tychicus? (v. 7)
2. What had Paul sent him to Colossae? (v. 8)
3. Who else went with Tychicus? (v. 9) How does Paul describe him? Where else do we read about him?
4. How does Paul describe Mark? (v. 10) Might this help us understand Barnabas' more sympathetic view of him in Ac. 15:36ff?
5. What did Paul remark about Aristarchus, Mark and Jesus (Justus)? (v. 10-11)
6. What did Paul mention that Epaphras was always doing? (v. 12) What was Epaphras praying?
7. What occupation was Luke? (v. 14)
8. The church at Colossae was to exchange letters with what other congregation? (v. 16)