



Seasoned with Salt (Colossians 4:1-18)

Final Instructions

“Masters, give your bondservants what is **just and fair**, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. 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. **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.” Colossians 4:1-6 NKJV

Colossians 4:1-6

☑ “Masters, give your **bondservants** what is **just and fair**, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.” Colossians 4:1 NKJV

☑ **Masters**

☑ This verse goes best with what is written in chapter 3 where there is an admonition to bondservants...

☑ *“**Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.**”*

Colossians 3:22

☑ So, we have advice to the bondservant—obey!

☑ And now we have advice to his master—be fair and just!

☑ You know, in reality, you too are a bondservant to your Master in heaven and you certainly want to be treated by Him fairly and justly.

☑ *“Therefore, **whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them,** for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*

Matthew 7:12 NKJV

☑ *“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.**” Colossians 4:2-4 NKJV*

☑ **Vigilant and thankful in Earnest Prayer**

☑ “...The effective, **fervent prayer** of a righteous man avails much.” James 5:16 NKJV

☑ Vigilant—be on guard, aware, watching. Why? Because what he wants them to do is...

☑ **The very reason Paul is in chains...**

☑ *Paul was in Rome awaiting his upcoming trial before Caesar. As a Roman citizen, he had appealed to Caesar, to have his case heard in Rome, because of the onslaught of false accusations and the increasing demand he be executed because of them (Acts 25:11-12).*

☑ And no matter what has happened or will happen, be thankful.

☑ **Open Doors to speak the mystery of Christ...**

☑ We already learned what that mystery was earlier in this letter in chapter 1.

☑ ***“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”*** Colossians 1:27-29 NKJV

☑ The mystery is Christ in you—perfection manifesting in humans—through the knowledge of Christ!

☑ See: [In Him in You PART IV: Christ in You the Hope of Glory](#))

☑ *“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.” Colossians 4:5-6 NKJV*

☑ **Walk in wisdom...**

☑ As a witness to non-believers who are looking on...

☑ People are watching. You may be the only Gospel someone ever reads. What is your life saying?

☑ **Redeem the time!**

☑ I would like you to look at this from two perspectives.

☑ Prophetically: it is important to recognize what time it is on God’s prophetic calendar. We have no time to waste.

☑ Personally: we all have the same amount of time each day (24 hours), each week (168 hours), each month (728 hours), each year (8736 hours).

☑ What are you doing with your time? See at **TIME Priority Worksheet** at the end of this study.

☑ **Speak...**

☑ Words of Grace:

☑ *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may **impart *grace to the hearers.**” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV*

- ☑ You have the awesome possibility and responsibility to impart *God’s supernatural power to others—with your words!
- ☑ Words Seasoned with Salt:
 - ☑ *“Salt is good; **but if the salt has lost its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? **It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill**, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”* Luke 14:34-35 NKJV
 - ☑ Salt is useful as long as it maintains its properties. It enhances flavor, preserves fresheners, and disinfects germs. If it no longer does those things, then it is useless.
 - ☑ If your words are not filled with God’s grace, then they are useless.
 - ☑ No one said it better than Y’shua...
 - ☑ *“Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; **but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.**”* Matthew 15:11 NKJV
 - ☑ James has much to say on the matter...
 - ☑ *“Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. **See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.** The tongue is so set among our members that it*

defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.” James 3:5-6 NKJV

☑ ***“With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.” James 3:9-10 NKJV***

☑ **You will know what to say...**

☑ If you are led by the Spirit:

☑ **“But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for **it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.**” Matthew 10:19-20 NKJV**

Final Greetings

“Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 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. **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. **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. **Luke** the beloved physician and **Demas** greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.”
Colossians 4:7-15 NKJV

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☑ *“**Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 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.”*

Colossians 4:7-9 NKJV

☑ **Tychicus: a sacrificial servant of the Lord.** It was over 1300 miles from Rome to Colossae, and the trip would have been full of dangers and hardship.

- ☑ [Tychicus](#) was an Asiatic Christian who, with [Trophimus](#), accompanied the [Apostle Paul](#) on a part of his journey from Macedonia to [Jerusalem](#). He is also alluded to have been with Paul in [Rome](#), where the apostle sent him to Ephesus, probably for the purpose of building up and encouraging the church there. In the New Testament, he is mentioned five times ([Acts 20:4](#); [Ephesians 6:21–22](#); [Colossians 4:7](#); [Titus 3:12](#); [2 Timothy 4:12](#)).
- ☑ **Onesimus:** The name “[Onesimus](#)” appears in two New Testament epistles—in [Colossians 4](#) and in [Philemon](#).
- ☑ In [Colossians 4:9](#), he identified as a Christian accompanying Tychicus to visit the Christians in [Colossae](#); nothing else is stated about him in this context.
- ☑ *“**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.” [Colossians 4:10-11 NKJV](#)*
- ☑ [Aristarchus](#): At [Caesarea](#), he embarked with Paul on a ship of [Edremit](#) ([Adramyttium](#)) bound for [Myra](#) in [Lycia](#) ([Acts 27:2](#)); whether he traveled with him from there to [Rome](#) is

not recorded. Aristarchus is described as Paul's "fellow prisoner" and "fellow laborer" in Colossians 4:10 and Philemon 1:24, respectively.

☑ **Mark the cousin of Barnabas**

☑ Paul also tells the Colossian Christians to welcome Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, if he comes (verse 11). This is John Mark, who on Paul's first missionary journey deserted Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13.

☑ **John Mark Abandons the Mission:** *"Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem."* Acts 13:13 NKJV

☑ Paul was not pleased with him and it fueled a split between he and Barnabas in Acts 15.

☑ **Paul and Barnabas Split over John Mark:** *"Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the*

grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.” Acts 15:37-41 NKJV

- ☑ Here in Colossians 4:10, we see Mark has been restored and forgiven.
- ☑ **Jesus who is called Justus.**
- ☑ [Jesus Justus](#) was one of several Jewish Christians in the church at Rome.

- ☑ *“**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.” Colossians 4:12-13 NKJV*
- ☑ **Epaphras:** Paul had not personally visited Colossae in his capacity as a minister of the Gospel, but they knew his position (as an Apostle).
- ☑ Paul did know Epaphras from Ephesus who we see mentioned also in Colossians 1:3-8.
- ☑ Epaphras was originally from Colossae, which was about 100 miles east of Ephesus.
- ☑ Paul commissioned him to bring the good news to Colossae, as well as Laodicea and Hierapolis.

- “*as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.*”
Colossians 1:7-8 NKJV
- Great Prayer...**
 - “... that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”
- “**Luke** the beloved physician and **Demas** greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and **Nymphas** and the church that is in his [her] house.” Colossians 4:14-15 NKJV
- Luke:** the author of Luke and Acts. He was a detailed researcher and scholar. Around 58% of the gospel of Luke is unique to that gospel.
- Luke 1:3 says he investigated everything carefully and wrote it out in consecutive order.
- [Demas](#) appears to have been involved for a time in Paul’s ministry. Demas is mentioned in three of Paul’s epistles: In Philemon 1:24 he is mentioned as a “fellow worker”.
- Nymphas (male) or Nympha (female)**
 - [Nymphas](#) (*Nymphas* means “bridegroom” in Greek, while *Nympha* means “bride” meaning) is a person (likely

a woman). Paul saluted her as a member of the church of Laodicea (Colossians 4:15).

- ☑ She was hosting a home church in Laodicea.

Closing Exhortations and Blessing

“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**. And say to **Archippus**, “**Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.**” This salutation by my own hand—Paul. **Remember my chains.** Grace be with you. Amen.” Colossians 4:16-18 NKJV

- ☑ “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.**” Colossians 4:16 NKJV

- ☑ **Exchange Letters**

- ☑ Read this letter to everyone in the Church in both Colossae and Laodicea.
- ☑ There was obviously a separate letter to the Laodiceans.
- ☑ “And say to **Archippus**, “**Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.**”” Colossians 4:17 NKJV

- ☑ [Archippus](#): an early **Christian believer** mentioned briefly in the New Testament (Philemon and Colossians).
- ☑ A word to Archippus; a word to us all! ***“Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”***

- ☑ *“This salutation by my own hand—Paul. **Remember my chains.** Grace be with you. Amen.” Colossians 4:18 NKJV*
- ☑ **Remember my chains...**
- ☑ This letter is written as Paul is incarcerated in Rome!

NEXT TEACHING

Disciples Doing What Disciples Do (I Thessalonians 1:1-10)

TIME Priority Worksheet

*“For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” Mat. 6:21*

*“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, **redeeming the time.**” Col. 4:5*

How many hours and what % of time do you dedicate to...

Weekly *(Hours / %)	Current	Desired	Plan
Sleep (include rest)			
Work (include travel)			
School (include Homework)			
Recreation			
Entertainment			
Relationships			
Activities of Daily Living			
**Personal Development			
Other ()			
Other ()			
***Real Discretionary Time			
Total Hours	168	168	168

*% = hours/168

**Hours for: 2700 for an AA; 5400 for a BA; 8100 for a Masters; 10,800 for a Doctorate

***Sample RDT: (30 hr/wk) 1yr. 9mo. (AA); 3yr. 6mo. (BA); 5yr. 3mo. (M); 7yrs (D)

What actions will you take to improve your expertise?
