

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Colossians Bible Study — Colossians 4:2-9 Lesson #17

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in Colossians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word.
(Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version)

2-4 **Continue EARNESTLY in PRAYER**, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for me **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.

• **Ephesians 6:18** “Praying _____ with _____ and _____ in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all _____ and supplication for all the _____.”

• **Acts 9:15-16** “But the _____ said to him, ‘Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My _____ before _____, kings, and the children of _____. For I will show him (Paul) how _____ things he must _____ for My _____.’”

Definition: “Continue EARNESTLY in PRAYER” – To CONTINUE in prayer speaks to its duration - praying ALL the TIME. “EARNESTLY” speaks to the sincerity of our prayers - how much it means to us. **“SUPPLICATION”** means prayer that is HUMBLE and **EARNEST (Fervent prayer with deep, sincere emotion or feeling)**.

• **James 5:16** “Confess your trespasses one to another, and _____ for one another that you may be _____. The _____, _____ prayer of a righteous man avails (accomplishes) much.”

• **I Timothy 2:1** “Therefore I exhort first of all that _____, _____, intercessions and _____ of _____, be made on behalf of all men.”

• **Philipians 4:6-7** “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by _____ and _____, with _____, let your _____ be made known to God; and the _____ of _____, which surpasses all understanding, will _____ your _____ and minds through Christ Jesus.”

• **Matthew 26:41** “_____ and _____, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Definition: “ALL KINDS OF PRAYER” — Just in the verses above, we have mentioned several KINDS of prayer: **supplication, intercessions** (praying for someone else), giving of **thanks**, petitions or **requests** (asking for our own needs). Also, there is the **prayer of praise and worship, spiritual warfare** prayer, **confession** of sin, and JUST HAVING A QUIET TIME and CONVERSATION WITH GOD.

• **I Thessalonians 5:16-18** “_____ always, _____ without ceasing, in everything _____; for this is the _____ of _____ in Christ Jesus for _____.”

Definition: “PRAYING in the SPIRIT” — The **Holy Spirit helps us** in our praying **when we really get SERIOUS about prayer**. This is not talking about the selfish or foolish requests we sometimes ask of God (see James 4:2-3), but when we are **sincere and earnest**, we don’t have to worry about “not praying correctly” or “following a certain prayer formula” — just let God “fill in the blanks”.

• **Romans 8:26-27** “Likewise the _____ also _____ in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should _____ for as we ought, but the _____”

_____ makes _____ for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who _____ the _____ knows what the mind of the _____ is, because He makes _____ for the saints according to the _____ of God.”

Definition: “That God would OPEN to us a DOOR for the WORD” – Paul was always looking for opportunities or “open doors” to preach the gospel. We should be like that, always looking for and asking the Lord to give us opportunities to witness to someone and tell them about Jesus.

• **Ephesians 6:19** “And for me, that _____ may be _____ to me, that I may _____ my _____ boldly to make known the _____ of the _____.”

Definition: “MYSTERY” — In the Bible, the word “mystery” doesn’t mean a detective story where they solve a murder. It means something **previously HIDDEN or not known**, that is **NOW REVEALED** by God. The “mystery” revealed here in Colossians 1:26-27 is that **Christ Himself will be dwelling (living) in the Believer** — this was something **TOTALLY UNKNOWN** and not even **IMAGINED** in Old Testament times. In I Timothy 3:16 (see below), the “mystery” that is revealed is that God Himself came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ.

• **Colossians 1:26-27** “The _____ which has been _____ from ages and from generations, but now has been _____ to His saints. To them God willed to make _____ what are the riches of the glory of this _____ among the Gentiles: which is _____ in you, the hope of glory.”

Definition: “For which I am also IN CHAINS” – Paul was in and out of prisons and jails for many years for his faith in Jesus Christ. At the end of his life, before he was executed by the Roman authorities (because he would not bow down to Caesar and say Caesar was “god”), he was allowed to live in his own rented house, not in a jail cell. **The modern day equivalent would be house arrest with an ankle monitor.** In those days, **it was actual CHAINS** (perhaps only on his legs), and a big, burly Roman soldier to guard him. We can be assured that God chose which Roman soldiers were to be assigned to Paul, and that Paul probably led a few of them to Christ.

• **Acts 28:16** “Now when we came to _____, the centurion delivered the _____ to the captain of the guard; but _____ was _____ to _____ by _____ with the _____ who _____ him.”

• **Acts 28:20** “For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am _____ with this _____.”

• **Acts 28:30-31** “Then _____ dwelt _____ whole _____ in his own rented _____, and received all who came to him, _____ the kingdom of God and _____ the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”

• **Ephesians 3:1** “For this reason, I, _____, the _____ of _____ for you Gentiles ---- “

• **Acts 21:11-13** “....he took Paul’s belt, bound (tied up) his own hands and feet, and said, ‘Thus says the _____, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem _____ the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’

(Verse 13) “Then Paul answered, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am _____ not only to be bound [*in prison*], but also to _____ at Jerusalem for the name of the _____.’”

5 Walk in wisdom **towards those who are OUTSIDE, REDEEMING the TIME.**

• **Ephesians 5:15-17** “See then that you walk _____, not as

_____ but as _____, _____ the _____, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but _____ what the _____ of the _____ is.”

Definition: “REDEEMING the TIME” – To REDEEM means to “buy back” or get back something that was lost. **In this context, to “redeem the time” means to make the most of the time we have here in our lives on earth, and to understand and DO the will of God while we still have time.** Once our lives are past in this life, the time is “lost” and we can’t do anything for God after that. Oh, yes! There will be things for us to do in heaven, but **it’s not the same as what we do for the Lord here on earth.** We will receive rewards in heaven for what we’ve done for God here in our earthly lives.

• **II Corinthians 5:10** “For _____ must _____ appear before the _____ seat of _____, that each one may _____ the things _____ in the _____, according to what he has _____, whether _____ or _____.”

Definition: “Towards those who are OUTSIDE” – Those who are “outside” means **non-Christians - those who are OUTSIDE the church.** We must be careful of our behavior, because “those on the outside” are watching us as Christians: either to see what God is doing in our lives, or else to criticize and condemn us for NOT behaving as godly people should. **If we represent Christ in a good way** to “those on the outside”, it is a way to witness to them for Christ, and they may come to believe in Him, too.

• **I Corinthians 5:11-13** “But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a _____, or _____, or an _____, or a reviler (using bad language), or a _____, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with _____ those also who are _____? Do you not _____ those who are _____? But those who are _____ God _____. Therefore ‘put away from yourselves that _____ person.’”

• **I Thessalonians 4:11-12** “That you also aspire to lead a quiet _____, to _____ your own _____, and to _____ with your own _____, as we commanded you, that you may walk _____ toward those who are _____, and that you may lack nothing.”

6 **Let your SPEECH always be with GRACE, seasoned with SALT, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.**

• **Ephesians 5:4** “Neither _____, nor _____, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather _____ of _____.”

• **James 3:8-11** “But no man can tame the _____. It is an unruly _____, full of deadly _____. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we _____ men, who have been made in the similitude (likeness) of God. Out of the _____ proceed blessing and _____. My brethren, these things ought _____ to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?”

• **Hebrews 13:15** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the _____ of _____ to God, that is the _____ of our _____, giving _____ to His name.”

• **II Timothy 2:16** “But shun (turn away from) profane (impure, filthy) and _____, for they will increase to _____.”

• **II Timothy 2:23** “But avoid _____ and _____ disputes, knowing that they generate strife.”

Definition: “Let your SPEECH always be with GRACE, seasoned with SALT” – In Ephesians, Paul says our speech should be “good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” Edification means “building up” and is the opposite of negative speech and words that tear people down. Jesus said, in Matthew 5:13, that we are the “Salt of the earth.” Salt purifies and preserves, and prevents food from becoming rotten. **Our speech should be pure and not rotten.** Salt also gives flavor to food.

Our speech should give people the **“flavor” of our having been in the presence of Jesus.** The opposite is a **“PERVERSE MOUTH”**, one of the things GOD HATES!! Perverse means “turned away from, or **opposing what is right or good; CORRUPT**; improper, stubborn, obstinate.”

• **Ephesians 4:29** “Let no _____ communication proceed out of your _____, but what is _____ for necessary _____, that it may impart _____ to the hearers.”

• **Psalm 39:1** “I said, ‘I will _____ my ways, lest I _____ with my _____; I will restrain my _____ with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me.’”

• **Psalm 34:13** “Keep your _____ from evil, and your _____ from speaking guile (dishonesty, deceit).”

• **Proverbs 8:13** “The fear of the Lord is to hate _____; _____ and _____ and the evil way and the _____ I hate.”

7-9 Tychicus, who is a **beloved BROTHER, a faithful MINISTER**, and a 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.

Definition: “Tychicus, who is a beloved BROTHER, a faithful MINISTER” – Tychicus was a Christian brother that Paul trusted to carry his letters to the church at Colossae. There was no mail delivery or postal service in those days, so Paul had Tychicus deliver letters to the church in Ephesus as well, and a personal letter to a man named Philemon. He would also tell the Christians there what was going on in Paul’s life and ministry.

• **Ephesians 6:21-22** “But that you also may _____ my _____ and _____ I am _____, Tychicus, a beloved _____ and _____ minister in the Lord, will make all things _____ to _____; whom I have _____ to you for this purpose, that you may _____ our _____, and that he may comfort your hearts.”

Definition: “ONESIMUS, a faithful and beloved BROTHER” – Onesimus was an escaped slave who had been captured, and somehow, at some point, Paul had been imprisoned with him and had led him to Christ (that’s what it means by “whom I have begotten in my chains” - **Onesimus was born again or “begotten” when Paul brought him to Christ in prison.** Onesimus was traveling with Tychicus to come back to his “earthly master” Philemon. Paul wrote the letter of Philemon to his former master, as Philemon was also now a Christian, and Paul urged him to welcome Onesimus back, **not as a slave, but as a fellow Believer and brother in Christ.**

• **Philemon 10-16** “I appeal to you for my son _____, whom I have _____ in my _____, who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I am _____ him _____. You therefore _____ him, that is, my own heart, whom I _____ to _____ with _____, that on your behalf he might minister to me in my _____ for the gospel. But without your consent I wanted to do nothing, that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary. For

perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, _____
longer as a _____ but more than a slave, as a _____
_____, especially to _____ but how much more to _____, both in the flesh and
in the Lord.”