

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 16

Discipleship Hour, 10/23/2020

Colossians 22: 4:2-6 (The Truth Displayed)

Study has proceeded by looking at the Book from the foundation of truth:

- Truth Declared 1:1-14
- Truth Defined 1:15-2:8
- Truth Defended 2:9-3:4
- Truth Desired 3:5-4:1
- Truth Displayed 4:2-18 (tonight) our last section (3:5-4:1) led us to: **Practicality**. You are complete in Him, so live as complete. Faith in Christ did it...Now faith in Christ must do it {Work out...} Review: we saw Truth desired of self and Truth desired in community: family and social life.
- Paul first discussed inner attitudes and then outward activities that are centered in the exalted Christ. He will now discuss both the method and the men which present **Truth Displayed**: 4:2-4 shows the individual's soul life (private). 4:7-18 shows persons who exemplify it.

Colossians 4:2-6 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 4:2** Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; "Continue steadfastly" = remain constant. **Acts 2:42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Note: Acts 2:42 early disciples continued steadfastly (proskartereo) in worship and the Way as opposed to Israel not "steadfast with God" and "in His covenant" **Psalms 78:8** And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation *that* did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God. **Psalms 78:37** For their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant. Comment: many words are translated "steadfast" but all show a sense of security or immovability due to a watchfulness in prayer. A steadfast faith requires

a steadfast prayer life with alertness because, what we do with frequency we tend to do sleepily. Alertness in prayer keeps your heart: drowsy eyes mistake friends for foes and enemies for allies.

Luke 21:34-36 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man. "The flesh grows weary but the spirit is tireless.

Matthew 26:40-41 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—Consider how Jesus rebuked Peter for his fleshly comment to avoid the Cross: "Get thee behind me satan". Colossians 4:2 said, "watchfulness...with thanksgiving." Thanks is called for the seventh time! It is so important because it provides entrance

Psalms 100:1-5 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He *is* God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, *And* His truth *endures* to all generations. Thanks is for His activity. Praise is of His person.

Colossians 4:3 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, Paul's prayer for the Colossians was in chap.1. He wishes the same from them. Paul is in prison and asks, not for prayer to get out, but to open a door for the WORD. What he will do is "to declare the mystery of Christ" (i.e., the message of salvation, the gospel). To Paul, the state of prisoner came far behind his state of preacher. He will preach wherever he is: Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Ephesians 6:19-20 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Paul will preach wherever he is and to whoever will listen:

Philippians 1:13-14 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 4:22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

Colossians 4:4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Notice Paul "ought" to have a clear gospel. The gospel, Paul well knew, is not proclaimed in "lofty wisdom of words" but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:17-21 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."* Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. Paul wants his walk and talk to match. In his case, his walk was established and he wanted his talk to match. In the case of the Colossians he wants theirs to be evenly matched also.

Colossians 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. V.5 "walk" means "conduct yourselves." Once the Colossians were outsiders, but that old life is shed like a spoiled suit and they are to live according to their new position in Christ and as having new privilege in

Christ. "Redeeming the time" = "making the most of the time" = a difficult marriage of zeal and wisdom. Zeal without wisdom = accomplishment without fruit "Redeeming the time" = exagorazo = to redeem by the payment of a price (i.e., buy up the time from its present evil occupation into usefulness.) "wisdom toward those who are outside" "Outsiders" are not impressed by zeal (Jim Jones – JW's, etc.) 4:5-6 shows the individual's public life (communal) Next week, 4:7-18 shows persons who exemplify the truth in their walk and talk.

COLOSSIANS 4:2-4 shows the individual's soul life (private)

1. Review Truth Displayed:
2. Note: "everyone" = not all as one group but each as a part of all because each man has different needs and characteristics.
3. 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
4. Always having salt = "that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Your "ought" is Paul's "ought." = clearly presenting Christ!)
5. Here, the gospel (truth) is to impart grace; anything less is not redeeming the time but wasting it.
6. Leviticus 2:13 And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.
7. Jesus words were gracious ("seasoned with salt") = reference to Levitical law where all sacrifices acceptable to God had to be salted.
8. Luke 4:22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"
9. Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
10. V.5 is their walk; v.6 is their talk: Lit. "Let (allow) your speech always be "with grace."
11. "Outsiders" are not impressed by wisdom alone. Wisdom is the way to go, but it is not the going.

Wisdom without zeal = plans without result...