

## Colossians 4:2-18

that you may stand firm in all the will of God,  
mature and fully assured. v12



Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful  
and thankful. v2

Devoted ? Continue steadfastly

1. Pray the real source of hope and power
2. Watch for self, others, direction (stay awake)
3. Thankfulness – is so important

For present benefits, future answers

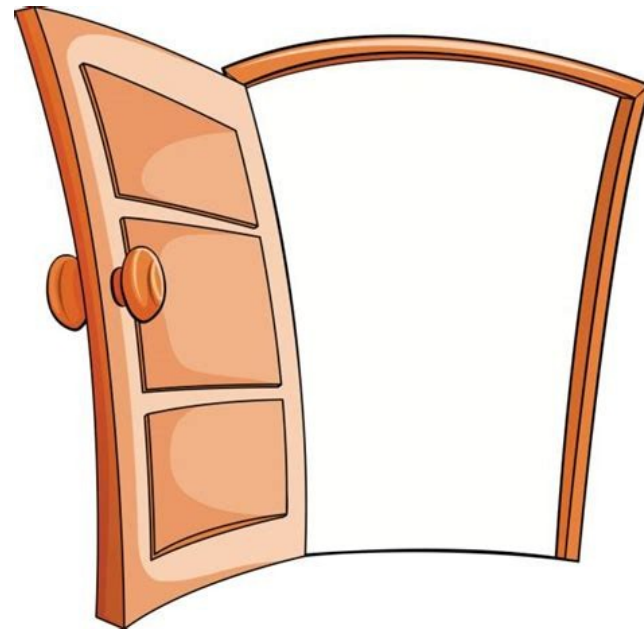


And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, v3

We need prayer too

Purpose ? Looking outward

Recognising hearts need to be prepared as opportunities arise



so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ,  
for which I am in chains. v3



Not an apology – a confident  
proclamation

Revelation about and of Jesus

In prison (opportunities ? Writing,  
sharing, visitors, guards ?)

Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

v4

So as understandable - not obscure!

‘Should’ he senses the call of God,  
and his responsibility



*James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders;  
v5

Your behaviour is important. Outsiders ?

Why? No cause of offence from you.

Aim to win them to Jesus



make the most of every opportunity. v5

God given times

Sensitive to them ?

Important work 2 Timothy 4:2.



Let your conversation be always full of grace,  
seasoned with salt, v6

What you say should be sweet and salty !  
An everyday comparison and sacrificial term  
You are Jesus' representative 24-7 = "always"

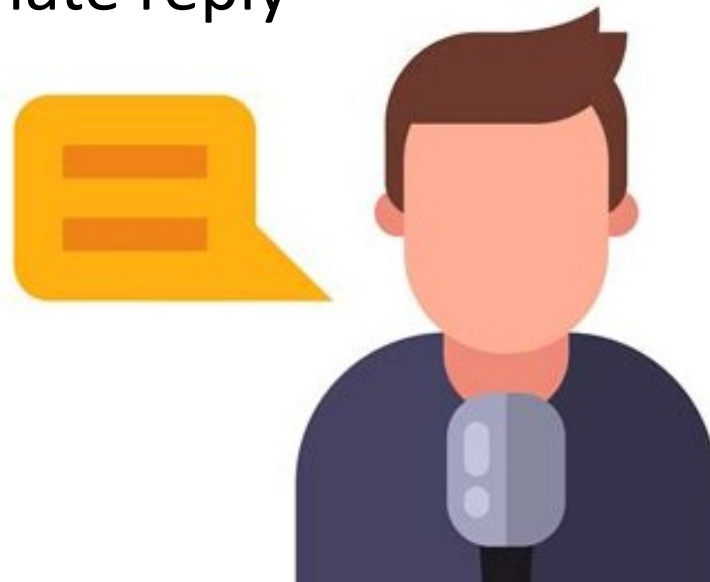




so that you may know how to answer everyone.

v6

A listener hears the questions/comments  
They need an appropriate reply



**1Peter 3:15** .. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Tychicus will tell you all the news about me.  
He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and  
fellow servant in the Lord. v7

People list – Paul in fellowship

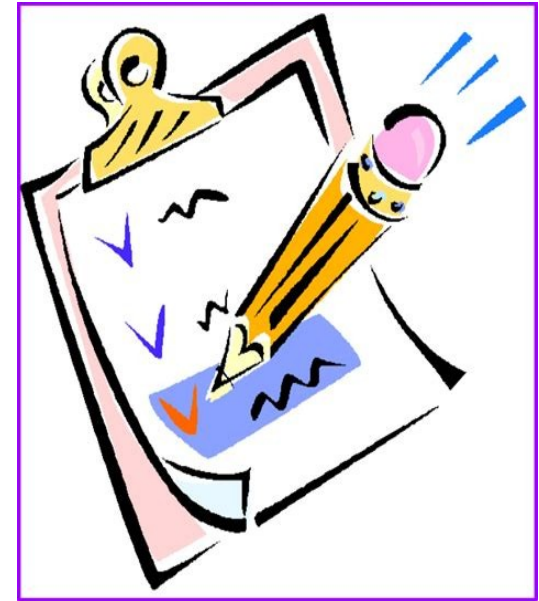
Tychicus – the postman/messenger  
not personally known to the Colossians ?

Commendations

As a person – a dear brother

As called to God's work – faithful

As willing to work together – fellow servant



I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. v8

Paul's concern for them to know - what is happening, how to pray (role of news-letters)

God is good – this man can minister to you too



He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

v9

Messenger's assistant ?

Saved-slave commended

Faithful, brother – a Colossian too

2 reporters for better telling



My fellow prisoner Aristarchus  
sends you his greetings, v10

Paul's travelling companion in the ministry

In prison with him or permanent visitor ?

Greetings in the Lord – accepting as family, welcoming,  
glad about the Lord's work in them



as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas.  
(You have received instructions about  
him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

v10

Paul in contact with quite a few people.

Mark (sad experience with  
Mark and Barnabas) all sorted !  
Mark is OK – no recriminations  
– welcome him if he comes DV.



Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings.

v11

Common Jewish name with Greek variation.  
Possibly out of respect too ?



These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. v11

In spite of much opposition from unbelieving Jews, God gave Paul Jewish believing leaders as companions as an encouragement.

(Suggests that Peter was not in Rome then ?)

Paul appreciated encouragement too.





Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. v12

He is a gentile from Colosse. He had brought news to Paul from Colosse. Apparently he was staying in Rome for the present with Paul.

AND is a follower of the Messiah Jesus



Notice reverse of title for Jesus here

– linking Jewish believers with these gentiles?

He is always wrestling in prayer for you,  
that you may stand firm in all the will of God,  
mature and fully assured. v12

A prayer warrior !

Hint at Genesis 32:34

*And Jacob was left alone. And a man  
wrestled with him until the breaking  
of the day.*



Intercessor for them

**This is the main Point of letter** – stay faithful  
to the Lord Jesus as strong adults in the faith

I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

v13

Commended by the apostle !

What kind of work ?

He worked because he cared for them.

3 'local' churches

- fellowship connections ?



# Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, v14

Special place for Luke (gentile?)  
Medics – place for them in God's plans.

Cf. Isaiah 38:21 and the poultice !

*Isaiah had said, "Prepare a poultice of figs and apply it to the boil, and he will recover."*

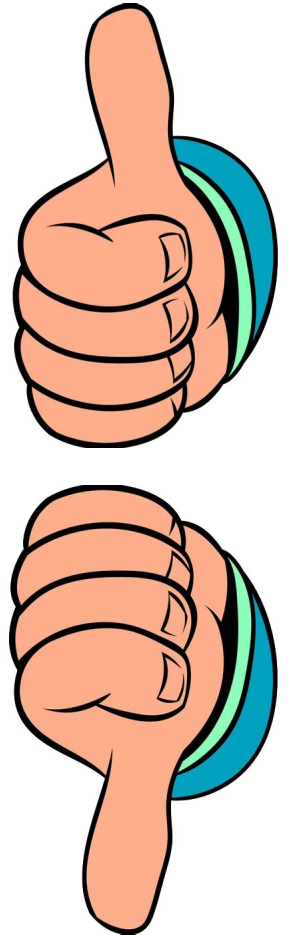


Our dear friend Luke, the doctor,  
and Demas send greetings. v14

Demas is included  
Paul may be trying to encourage him  
Demas is cooling-off as pressure grows.

*2 Timothy 4:10 Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.*

It's not just starting well that counts!



Give my greetings to the (brothers and sisters)  
at Laodicea, v15

Personal greetings also to other churches  
(local bodies of believers linked to others)



and to Nympha and the church in (her) house.  
v15

Male or female question KJV vs. NIV, ESV

Think of Lydia in Acts 16

Priscilla & Aquila in

1 Corinthians 16:19

View into 1<sup>st</sup> century church life

No big buildings were dedicated  
as 'churches'



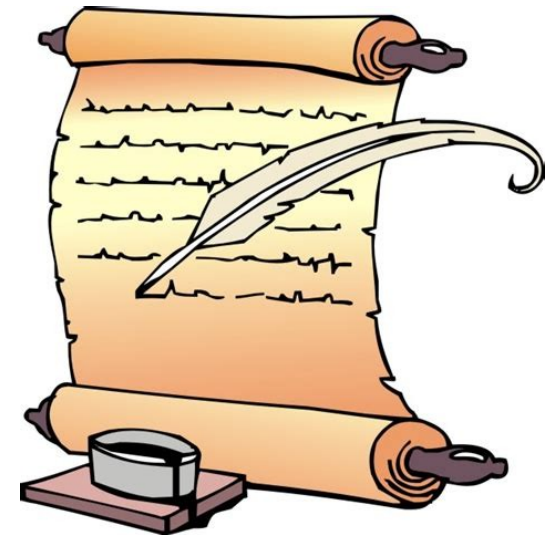
After this letter has been read to you,  
see that it is also read in the church of the  
Laodiceans and that you in turn read the  
letter from Laodicea. v16

Did the church listen to the whole letter ?

No TV in those days and were concentration levels better ?

The other letter may well be what  
we now call 'Ephesians'

We see here the beginning of the  
collection of writings that will  
eventually form our New Testament





Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

v17

One of the pastors?

Get the church to tell him

'Don't give up'

He needs to hear it from them.

What does 'complete the ministry' mean?

The Lord's calling on our individual lives



I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.  
Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

v18

Personal signature Who wrote the rest ?

An amanuensis – another essential background job !

Chained to a guard ?

Was this a claim for  
sympathy or for another  
reason?

Final blessing - grace !



that you may stand firm in all the will of God,  
mature and fully assured. v12



**Psalms 1:1-3** Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-- whatever they do prospers.