

Colossians – Chapter 4

“Fulfilling Our God-given Ministry”

Colossians 4:15-18

Verse 15

1. Paul sends greetings to the brethren in Laodicea. Colosse, along with Laodicea and Hierapolis, formed a tri-city area (4:13). Obviously, the churches corresponded and interacted with one another.
2. Paul then mentioned a man by the name of Nymphas. We know nothing about this man, other than there was a local church that met in this man's _____.
3. There is no verse that **commands** local churches to meet in _____. The early churches did it out of necessity.
4. The building structure is inconsequential because the church is not the building, the church is the _____!

Verse 16

1. Paul desired that this letter to the Colossians also be _____ to the church **in** Laodicea. Then Paul mentions a letter that he wanted the Colossians to read **from** Laodicea.
2. So what is this letter? Notice, Paul did not say that he wanted the Colossians to read the epistle **to the Laodiceans**. He simply wanted them to read the epistle **from** Laodicea.
3. They had a letter in their possession that Paul wanted the Colossians to read also. It could have been the letter to the Ephesians.

Verse 17

1. Who is Archippus? When we cross-reference Philemon 2, it would seem that he was a family member of Philemon's (possibly his son).

2. Paul has a special word of admonition and encouragement to this man.
“Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it.”
3. Paul also admonished Archippus to fulfill his ministry.
 - The word “fulfill” carries the idea of accomplishing or completing something. Basically, Paul is cheering him on and saying, “Don’t _____, Archippus!”
 - *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7*
4. Sometimes it can get discouraging when we _____ the Lord. In moments of fleshly weakness, we can be tempted to think, “Is this worth it?”
5. But sooner than you think, you will be standing before your Savior.

Verse 18

1. *“The salutation by the hand of me Paul”*
 - This was a characteristic mark of Paul. He would always sign his letters and end with “Grace.”
2. Isn’t it touching that he also adds, *“Remember my bonds.”*
3. Paul wanted them to remember his bonds (his physical condition) because it was for the sake of the _____ and lost souls that he had those bonds.
4. Paul was _____ to the Lord, and it cost him a great deal, and ultimately his very life. Faithfulness doesn’t always reap earthly dividends, but it sure reaps an eternal, heavenly harvest!
5. Christian, be encouraged. You are complete in Christ, and have everything you need in Him. There is no need to look anywhere else. You are _____ equipped in Christ.