

Colossians – Chapter 4

“The Keys to Paul’s Prayer Life”

Colossians 4:1-2

Verse 1

1. As we mentioned in the previous chapter, servanthood was not a racial issue in the Roman culture of Paul’s day. It was an issue of a person’s financial and social status. It was totally embedded in the culture, as it still is in many cultures.
2. Of course, it would be easy for a master to treat his servants with cruelty, unfairness, and harshness.
3. Paul addresses believing masters and admonished them to treat servants the _____ way that they would want their heavenly Master to treat them. Ephesians 6:9
4. Paul taught that, in the body of Christ, there is no _____ or _____, but that we are all one in Christ Jesus.
 - *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”*
Galatians 3:28
 - This was radical teaching that went against the grain of _____ in that day. Servants were to put on Christ in their relationship to their masters, and masters were to put on Christ in relationship to their servants.
5. What is the practical application? As you lead those in authority under you, you lead them the way _____ would lead; you treat them the way you desire Christ to treat you. Just because you are the “boss” does not give you the right to treat them cruelly or harshly.

Verse 2

1. The apostle Paul was such a prayer warrior. Virtually all of his epistles speak of his prayer life or contain admonitions for believers to pray.
2. Paul encourages these believers to “*Continue in prayer...*” This reminds us of 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “*Pray without ceasing.*” What did Paul mean by this?
3. He simply means that the believer is to faithfully _____ the practice of prayer.
 - In other words Paul is saying, “Don’t _____ praying. Be faithful. Keep praying!”
4. Paul said to pray and “*watch in the same...*”
 - “*Watch*” means “to be _____.” Don’t just pray memorized, mundane, rote prayers where you’re half-asleep.
 - “*Watch*” means that you give God your _____ when you pray.
5. Paul said to pray with thanksgiving. Prayer is not always coming to God with your hands open with a “give me” attitude. It is coming to God and saying, “_____ you, Lord.”
6. By way of review, what have we learned about prayer in this little verse?
 - Pray _____ and consistently – “*Continue in prayer*”
 - Pray _____ and intelligently – “*watch in the same*”
 - Pray _____ – “*with thanksgiving*”

Next time we will examine one more key principle concerning our prayer lives.