

**PRESS ON
IN CONFIDENCE**

A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

LESSON 27 COLOSSIANS 4:2-18

1. What did you need to learn (or re-learn) from last week's study on **Colossians 3:18-4:1** and why?
2. Paul concluded his letter to the Colossian church with both final words for all readers as well as greetings and instructions for specific individuals. As you read **Colossians 4:2-18**, pray and ask God to reveal His truths for all believers and His specific encouragement just for you.
3. Read **V2**. What can you do in your own life to cultivate the kind of prayer that Paul prescribed?
 - "Devote yourselves to prayer"
 - "Being watchful"
 - "Being thankful"
4. a) What did Paul ask the Colossians to pray for in **V3-4**?

b) Where would you like to see God open doors for you to tell His story?
5. How do the following verses encourage you as you consider opportunities to share the message of Jesus?
 - **Matthew 10:19-20**
 - **1 Corinthians 1:5**
6. Paul gave further inspiring words in **V5-6** to energize Christians to share the good news of Jesus.
 - a) Why do you think he addressed our actions toward unbelievers first (**V5**) before having conversations with them (**V6**)?
 - b) What holds you back from "making the most of every opportunity" to proclaim Christ?

7. Put **V6** in your own words.

8. Paul said that our conversations are to be “always full of grace” and “seasoned with salt.” What would that kind of conversation look like with an unbeliever you know (content, tone, word choices)?

9. Paul shifted gears in **V7-18** from instructions to personal greetings.

a) How did Paul describe the following people, and/or what can you deduce about them?

- Tychicus

- Onesimus

- Aristarchus

- Epaphras (see also **1:7**)

- Any others who were mentioned

b) From any of these descriptions, which one would you want said of you and why?

10. In **V8-9**, Paul said that his reason for sending Tychicus and Onesimus with all his news was to “encourage your hearts.” When has hearing someone’s personal news been encouraging to you in your own faith journey?

11. Re-read **V12-13** where Paul commended Epaphras for his prayers and hard work.

a) When have you been encouraged by finding out that someone has been supporting you in this way?

b) As you looked at how he prayed in **V12b**, for whom are you “wrestling in prayer,” and what are you praying for them?

12. The last person Paul mentioned was Archippus with an implied message to “hang in there.” Just like Archippus, sometimes we need encouragement to finish the job God has put into our hands.

a) Can you relate to this? For what specific ministry or situation?

b) Who might need your encouragement today? Write a prayer for that person and think of a way to share it with them.

13. Paul's life was an ongoing story of *pressing on in confidence*. God enabled him to support so many, often through a faithful support team of his own (as noted in these closing verses).

a) Who would you say makes up your support team that helps *you press on in confidence*? In what ways have you experienced this?

b) Who are you supporting and how?

DIGGING DEEPER

It was always on Paul's heart to "make the most of every opportunity" to proclaim the message of Jesus.

1. What do the following verses say about the relative importance of the sharing the gospel versus other priorities?

- **Mark 8:35-36**

- **Acts 20:24**

2. What lessons can we learn from the following passages about what to do or *not* to do while sharing the gospel?

- **Romans 1:16**

- **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

- **1 Thessalonians 2:4-6**

- **1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8**

3. How does **Romans 10:13-15** challenge or compel you?

4. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Colossians 4:6**

b) Pray about how to make the most of every opportunity and to have conversations full of grace.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST