

11-17-13

Scripture: Colossians 4:6-18

Title: Paul and Company

Colossians 4:5

5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity

Our relationship w/ the Lord is to affect our relationships

At home

At work

Internally – our prayer time – devotion to prayer

It should affect our relationship w/ those who don't know the Lord

We are to be wise

Make the most of opportunities that come up

And...

Speak with grace and salt

Colossians 4:6

Our speech is the way that we witness

Speech is words

We are to proclaim the word of God w/ our words

Verse 5 – conduct ourselves wisely...

Our actions, the things that we do, and...

Verse 6 – our speech

Our words convey the Gospel

Submit to Jesus as your Lord

(3:17) Whatever you do in word or deed...

Our words and our deeds w/ "outsiders" are to show the Gospel

Always w/ grace

Should always be a difference in how we talk

Gracious speech is to be our habit

Ever put on a Christian teacher – and not act like a believer?

Whether wearing the shirt or not – our actions/words should show

Speaking w/ grace involves speaking what is spiritual
What is wholesome, fitting and kind
What is purposeful, and complementary
Speech that is gentle, truthful, loving and thoughtful

- *...seasoned w/ salt*

Salt can sting when rubbed into a wound

It can also prevent corruption

Our speech should have a purifying influence, a preserving affect

Salt adds flavor and our speech should add flavor to the lives around us

Presenting a different view from the world

A way of thinking not often thought about

A way of thinking based on the truth of God's word

Using care in the words we speak

Choosing the right words

Our speech is to be like salt

- *so that you will know how you should respond to each person*

Knowing how to say the right thing at the right time

Being ready to make a defense of the hope in us

Addressing each unbeliever

According to his/her need

We must individually receive His gift of grace

Tychicus

Colossians 4:7-8

Likely from Ephesus, and a convert of Paul

He was w/ Paul on his 3rd missionary journey

Mentioned briefly 5 times

Spent time w/ Paul on his journeys and while imprisoned in Rome

W/ Paul when arrested in Jerusalem

Part of the Gentile believers w/ Paul
Considered as temporary replacement for Titus in Crete as pastor
Temporary replacement of Timothy in Ephesus so he could see Paul one last time

Tychicus is the one who will be bringing this letter
Carried letters to Colossae and Ephesus and Philemon
Not an easy task – we have US mail – put it in a box...
This was hand delivery
Cross Italy on foot
Sail across Adriatic Sea
Cross Greece on foot
Sail across Aegean Sea
Then another 100 mile hike
Carrying three letters
Three books of Inspired scripture
God's Word

Brought the letter and...
Will be telling them how Paul's doing
How he is managing during his imprisonment
Telling them about Paul
And his whole team as well
Including Epaphras
And... helping them in understanding what Paul has written
Responsible for publicly reading this letter
Providing oral commentary on it
Paul is authorizing him to do this...

Tychicus is a beloved brother
He is a faithful servant
He is a fellow bond-servant
Tychicus is working alongside Paul
Beloved by God and by Paul
He served the Lord, the church, the gospel
He is faithful – you need to listen to him

Tychicus is not only Paul's friend, he represents Paul's "team"

- ...encourage your hearts

Encourage or comfort

Not just giving them the news

Encouraging them, comforting them

The encouragement/comfort that comes from God

Onesimus

Colossians 4:9

Tychicus also brought Onesimus w/ him

Onesimus means useful

He was slave of Philemon

Ran away and then...

Met Paul in prison and became a believer

Now returning to his master

Uncertain future...

Yet, Onesimus is described as Tychicus

Faithful and beloved brother

Not as a servant or fellow slave

This slave is considered to be a brother

Paul is changing their view of Onesimus

There is neither slave nor free

This slave is now part of the “family”

- ...one of your number

Onesimus is from Colossae

Paul wants his letter to be well received in Colossae

He also wants Onesimus to be well received...

Could've been a problem in the past

Things are different now

Book of Philemon explains more of this...

Onesimus and Tychicus will be giving the update together

This former slave is entrusted w/ great responsibility

Aristarchus and Mark

Colossians 4:10

Acts tells us Aristarchus is a Macedonian from Thessalonica

One of Paul's travel companions on his 3rd missionary trip

Recognized as being one of Paul's company

Taken by the rioting mob in Ephesus instead of Paul
Was also in Jerusalem and trip to Rome

Fellow prisoner...

Could be a picture of their relationship w/ the Lord Jesus
He is a “captive” of Jesus as Paul is

Mark

Likely the Mark who traveled w/ Paul and Barnabas on 1st missionary journey

Left them in Pamphylia

Paul didn't want to bring him on 2nd trip

Sharp disagreement w/ Barnabas

They parted company

Mark appears in Colossians and Philemon

Also 2 Timothy – described as helpful

Described here as a fellow worker for the kingdom of God

Changed from his past...

There is a connection between Peter and Mark

Peter would understand betrayal...

He worked to help restore Mark

He had been a problem in the past – now he's useful

Justus

Colossians 4:11

This is the only mention of Justus in scripture

Jesus is Greek form of Joshua

His Latin surname name is Justus – righteous, law-abiding or just

He was a comfort to Paul

Faithful service is often a comfort, an encouragement

Epaphras

Colossians 4:12-13

Epaphras – talked about in beginning

Also here in the end

He's from Colossae

Founder of the church

Tells Paul about them

Earlier – beloved fellow slave, faithful servant of Messiah

Here – bondslave of Jesus – *doulos*

Title primarily used by Paul for himself

Always striving in his prayers

Devoted to prayer

Laboring earnestly

Striving

He is dedicated to the building up of the believers in Colossae

He has agonized for them

He prays for their maturity and their assurance

Stand perfect – resisting the false teachers – complete

Fully assured – assured in the truth of God's will

Stand on the foundation of the truth

Continue in their faith

Not shifting from the hope of the gospel

Being fully persuaded, satisfied fully

Only those who live in obedience to God's will can grow to the fullness of Christ and be content

Not just in Colossae but the other two cities of the region

He has been concerned for all the believers of the area

Paul saw this in Epaphras – his devotion, and his prayers for them

Luke

Colossians 4:14

14 Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.

Luke – who wrote Luke and Acts

Traveled w/ Paul on 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys

Sections in Acts that say *we* beginning chapt 16

Paul's physician and close friend

Gentile believer

Demas only found 2 other times in NT

Philemon and 2 Timothy

In 2 Timothy – he deserted Paul, loved the world

Greet

Colossians 4:15

Moving out of Colossae to other believers in the area

They would be sharing this letter w/ Laodicea

So natural that Paul would greet them

Nothing is known of Nympha or the church in her house

The End

Colossians 4:16-17

Don't know when letter to Laodicea written

Could've been sent before Colossians

Also possible Tychicus carried it also – don't know

Apocryphal book – Epistle to the Laodiceans

For Paul's letters to be passed around

Show the importance

Shows the authority of them

Archippus also listed in Philemon

Fellow soldier

Belongs to household of Philemon

Has some involvement in Paul's ministry

Check out his ministry – follow the example of this already mentioned

Fulfill his ministry – do what the Lord expects

Ministry can be work, task, service

In the Lord – related to gospel ministry

Harry Heintz wrote: Recently I glimpsed the glory of finishing a task well. At Arlington National Cemetery, I saw the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. I had watched that ceremony several times before, always moved by its solemnity and precision.

This time, however, I witnessed something new. When the changing of the guard was completed, the commanding officer asked us to remain standing in silence. Sergeant Jennings had completed 27 months of this special duty and wanted now to pay his respect to the unknown soldiers. A guard escorted Jennings' family to a place of honor.

The commanding officer handed Jennings four roses. Jennings approached the great Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the First World War, knelt, and placed a rose before it. Then he moved with solemn dignity to the tombs honoring unknown soldiers from the Second World War, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam, kneeling to place one red rose upon each. He returned to his commanding officer and stood before him. At attention, with their eyes locked, they shook hands. Then Sergeant Jennings carefully removed his white gloves and returned them, his work finished. He saluted his officer, greeted his family, and left.

With tears running down my face I thought of standing before my Lord Jesus someday, taking off my gloves and handing them to him

Fulfill your ministry

Complete it, finish the task given to you...

Colossians 4:18

Writes w/ his own hand
Reminder of his imprisonment
Benediction

Likely someone else wrote this letter for Paul
His own handwriting added at the end

Remember to pray for Paul
May imply personal and financial help

Conclusion:

Grace and salt – how is your speech?
Is it a reflection of your relationship w/ Jesus?

Paul's company – Paul wasn't alone – much help

Funeral...

Working together
Pulling your load
Praying together
Helping where able
All are important

Benediction:

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Sermon outline

10-17-13

Colossians 4:6-18

Speak with g_____ and s_____

T_____

O_____

A_____ and M_____

J_____

E_____

L_____

The End