

## Colossians 4

### Background

Colossians 3 begins with “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.” This passage truly sets the tone for the rest of the chapter in the message Paul was trying to deliver to the church of Collosae as well as the region of Asia Minor. Above all things, Paul writes, we are to seek those things which are above. Forget all the worldly ideologies, the vain philosophy, or anything else distracting and turn and keep your eyes on Jesus. With our eyes on Jesus this should trickle down to our day to day life. Paul encouraged them to “put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another..” He even offers proper order in our roles as husbands, wives, children, fathers, and bondservants. Bottom line, our day to day life should reflect our love of Jesus.

As we venture into chapter 4, Paul begins to sign off on his letter. While chapter 4 is decidedly “less meatier” than the rest of Colossians, there are still some important truths contained within it. Dig those truths out and be prepared to share them with your group.

### Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.

Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

#### Colossians 4:6:

*“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”*

### Day 2 - Observations

2. In verse 1, **what** specific groups of people does Paul address? **What** does Paul stress is given from the first group? **What** is the guiding principle for the first group mentioned in how to treat the second group?

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3. In verses 2-6, Paul offers many exhortations for the church to follow. **What** are those exhortations? List some or all of these below.

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4. Verses 7-9 begins what should be a familiar list of individuals (especially if you studied Philemon). **Who** are those individuals and **what** roles did they play in our studies thus far?

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5. Verses 10-14 list many individuals who wished to greet the church at Colossae and beyond. **Who** are they and **what** additional descriptors does Paul give them?

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6. In verses 15-18, Paul wishes to greet the church from another region. **What** region is it? **What** individuals does he mention as well? **Where** do you remember the last individual from (hint: think from previous weeks)?

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7. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the 'who, what, when, where, why, and how' of the passage.

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### Day 3 - Additional Observations

8. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

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9. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links "purposeful parallels." If so, write those down below.

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10. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Colossians 4:1 (NKJV), “**Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.**” - This week’s word from the passage above: “**bondservants**”

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

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11. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.

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#### Day 4 - Interpret

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God’s intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

12. In verses 2-4, Paul is exhorting the church on prayer. What are the lessons is he trying to teach the church on how they should pray and what the hope is for their prayers?

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13. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

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### Day 5 - Life Application

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

14. Am I praying earnestly and with thanksgiving for my fellow believers? Am I praying that the doors of the gospel would be opened to those within my influence radius?

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15. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

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### Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

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### Notes from Teaching

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