

Continue in Christ > Colossians 4:2-18

4:2-4 Paul returns to the theme that he opened with: prayer. The Colossians are to be looking for things to bring before the Lord and are to come before Him with thanks. Similarly, they are to pray for the spread of the Gospel, and for Paul's opportunities for spreading the Good News in specific.

4:5-6 Paul also instructs the Colossians in how they are to act towards those outside the church: rather than taking a combative attitude, or a dismissive or prideful one, these Christians are to treat outsiders wisely, speaking with grace in a way that is compelling and tailored to each person.

4:7-18 While it might seem as if these verses have little application to us today, what we see instead is the priority of relationships within ministry. Every Christian is part of a larger network of people (the "church") who serve Jesus. We need each other and must prioritize relating to one another.

Context: In a letter focusing on following and holding to Jesus, Paul concludes with practical steps for living the faith.

Aim: The Colossians are called to live out their faith in ways that are distinctively Christian – both towards each other and towards those outside of the church.

Gospel: Because Jesus has changed us, we have new priorities that emphasize depending upon our trustworthy Lord and displaying that joy to one another with our lives.

Applications: How will this inspired letter change your prayers? Your attitude towards others? Your love for Christ's servants? Who will you share these truths with?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
