

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 26 February 2023

“Spiritual Disciplines for New Life”

Monday: Following Jesus (**Matthew 20:29-34**)

Tuesday: Devoted to Prayer (**Acts 1:6-14**)

Wednesday: Living in Harmony (**Romans 15:1-6**)

Thursday: Living to Please God (**1st Thessalonians 4:1-12**)

Friday: Guarding Your Words (**Ecclesiastes 5:1-6**)

Saturday: Supporting Others in the Faith (**Colossians 4:7-17**)

Sunday: Devotion and Conduct (**Colossians 4:2-6**)

“Spiritual Disciplines for New Life”

Printed Text • Colossians 4:2-6

Bible Background • Colossians 4:2-17

Devotional Reading • Corinthians 9:19-27

Keep in Mind: “*And say to Archippus, “Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you.”. (Colossians 4:17, NLT)*”

Aim for Change

“By the end of the lesson, we will: **RECOGNIZE** the importance of spiritual disciplines in maintaining a Christian life; **REFLECT** on people in our lives who mentor us in faith; and **ACCEPT** the role of mentor for new Christians we may encounter.”

In Focus

“Practicing spiritual discipline is vital to our walk with Christ. Apostle Paul emphasizes that it is a lesson we should never forget.”

Focal Verses

Colossians 4:2-6 KJV

2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

Colossae; Colossae (also spelled “Colosse”) was a prosperous city located in the southwestern section of the Lycus River Valley in Phrygia. It was known for producing wool that had been dyed the color of colossinus, a shade of purple from the cyclamen flower. Intermarriage between Jews and Gentiles was not uncommon. Although the Jewish community was large and the Christians were thriving like their brothers and sisters in nearby Laodicea, many of the Greeks still practiced their ancient, pagan religions.”

II. Background

“Prior to writing to the Colossians, it is believed Paul had not ever visited Colossae based on Colossians 2:1 (“I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally,” NIV). Paul wrote his epistle to the Colossians while he was still imprisoned in Rome (A.D. 61). Christian leaders in Colossae included Archippus, Philemon, and Epaphras, who founded the Colossian church. They sought Paul’s help in dealing with the heresy in the city. The Gnostics did not believe in the Incarnation, the act of Christ taking on human flesh, thus they denied His humanity. In addition, they also preached against the supremacy of Christ and His role in creation (Padfield, “The Church at Colosse in Asia Minor”). They were proponents of human logic and philosophy (Colossians 2:8). Paul sought to counter this by explaining redemption, clarifying Christ’s identity, launching a polemic against the Gnostic philosophy, and describing ways to put our beliefs about the death and resurrection of Christ into practice.”

III. In Depth

- a. **“Continue in Prayer (Colossians 4:2–4)”** “Today’s lesson text begins in the middle of Paul explaining how Christians should practice their faith. In chapter 3, he exhorts believers to make sure their lives reflect Christ and to not focus on earthly things but instead on things of God because they have a new life in Christ (vv. 1–3). He encourages them to put aside the various sins of their old selves (vv. 5–9) and embrace holiness as defined in verses 12 through 14. Perhaps to ensure that no believer be led astray by Gnostic heresy, Paul wrote: “Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ”
- b. **Speak with Grace (Colossians 4:5-6)** “Another discipline Paul encourages the believers to practice is monitoring how they live and speak. He writes, “Live

wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity” (Colossians 4:5, NLT). Christians should take advantage of every opportunity to display lives influenced by their faith (Ephesians 5:15–17). In fact, Paul writes that their “speech” (conversation, discourse) should be “with grace, seasoned with salt” (from Colossians 4:6, KJV). The way Christians speak and, the content of their conversations should suit their positions in Christ. Any kind of foolish talk, obscenities, or”

IV. Take Aways

V. Closing Prayer