

“Equipping believers for growth and service by encountering God through his word.”

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

JUNE 23, 2010

DAVID NEIDERT



OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS

Greetings (1:1-2)

The Themes (1:3-2:5)

A. Thanksgiving

B. Prayer and Meditation

C. Paul's Ministry and Reason for Writing

Appeal for Christian Maturity (2:6-4:6)

A. Continue in Christ

B. Let No One Exclude You

C. Live in Accordance with Life of Christ

Final Greetings (4:7-18)

EXPRESSIONS OF WORSHIP

3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- “the word of Christ”- the gospel
- Dwell in us through teaching and worship
- Music should be about giving thanks to God/ little difference in words used
- Gratitude— “in the grace” because of the grace of God we can sing
- “do all in”—cannot make rules for everything (that is what Pharisees did) the best testimony is an obedient life; “in name” represent them & empowered by them

HOUSEHOLD RULES/ *HAUSTAFELN*

- How to be truly Christ in the place we are most ourselves; by being free at home, we set the climate for others to be free in Christ also; to grow in maturity
- “Reciprocal admonitions”– found in other letters
- Context--Need for order:
 - Immediate return of Christ/ uncontrolled charismatic responses (1 Cor. 11-14); church a place of order for all people
 - Church a place of freedom for men, women, slaves; (cf 3:11)
 - Pagan worship mostly female oriented, ecstatic utterances

HOUSEHOLD RULES CONTEXT, CONTD.

- Context of worship (3:16-17 & 4:2-4)
- Women (ancient world)— “Thank you God I am not a Gentile, a woman, or a boor.” (peasant or unrefined person with little manners); slave— “a living tool—” except for talking, they are equal to animals/ expendable when need or wanted
- Cultural rules in the house typical in Greek and Roman society
- Christian household: A place of mutual love and submission in Christ

3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

- “hypotasso,” mutuality/ submit, nothing here about hierarchy, but what is proper and culturally understood; love = “agape” highest of all forms of love/ it avoids bitterness, resentment, tyranny/ “the supreme aim is the well-being of the other person”

3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

- Provoke, tyrannical, live to deserve obedience not demand it; do not lead to exasperation or frustration/ order not anarchy

Slave and masters:

- Many slaves coming into the church; freedom in the church which is not rivaled in society of Rome
- Slaves not released from their worldly status by coming into the church; Christianity is not a treasonous faith but faith that transforms
- Slavery often voluntary for economic reasons
- Have a new attitude about service/ “eye service” seek God’s approval not human; work for God not humans;

²⁵Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. (to slave or master? Both?)

PRAYER AND WITNESS

- Persistence in prayer life/ watchful in prayer
- Thanksgiving—our response because of what we are given by Christ
- Preaching the message clearly; the mystery of Christ clearly shared
- Your faith is authenticated by how you live with others (outsiders); not reclusive to the world
- Use every opportunity to witness “buy-redeem” every opportunity
- Witness in wisdom
- Gracious speech in answers/ “seasoned” wholesome, witty, palatable (someone asked)

FINAL THOUGHTS OF PAUL

Paul's personal relationship and care for others and the message and witness in their lives

- Co-workers with Paul; those spreading the gospel
- Tychius (Acts 20:24) brings the letter to Colossae; encourager/ parakaleo
- Onesimus—run away slave coming home
- Aristarchus, **Mark**, Justus (Jewish believers) they are prisoners also/ bring comfort
- Epaphras—prayer and care for the people
- Demas (2 Tim 4:10) leaves Paul
- Arichippus—important work he is doing; encourage him

FINAL COMMENT

¹⁶After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

¹⁸I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Letters shared with other churches

Remember the ministry God has given to me to complete; respect Paul for who he is in Christ and what God has encourage him to write

“**Grace** be with you/ **Grace** and peace to you from God our Father.”

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

- ❖ Worship is an act of gratitude to God
- ❖ Christian home should be a place of living outwardly for Christ so that everyone in it might mature in faith
- ❖ Do all things as unto God; our obedience is the living testimony
- ❖ Live for Christ everywhere; especially in the marketplace where our faith is shown to be authentic and people will want to know about your life in Christ

Grace and peace to you