

Ministering with Paul

Colossians 4:5-18

5 **Conduct** yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with **salt**, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

Our walk/conduct-what we do as Christians: Be real & be spiritual...Let the life of Christ overflow from your life w/ wisdom **not phony** or put on-**pretend**. Two extremes w/ outsiders 1 Participate in **unfruitful deed of darkness** trying to prove you are not a prude--**holy Joe/Jane**, but still cool, yet ruin your witness. 2 Obnoxious, hard to get along w/, weird, Inappropriate, judgmental & offensive. Being critical at what we once joined in doing—

1Cor 6: 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor those habitually drunk, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

We can turn unbelievers off-**like we were turned off**, when we feel judged by Christians—relig rules instead of relationship. **Turn em off instead of on**

Seasoned speech...you salt of earth **Matt 5:13**...salt flavors, create thirst, corrects taste, preserves decay, heals. Not too much salt, **banana bread**.

How you should respond...some w/ gentle encouragement--others strong rebuke..**Danny guy bullhorn bar**. **Jude 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire & on some have mercy w/ fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.**

7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information. 8 For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts; 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your number. They will inform you about the whole situation here.

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The church was concerned & asking about Paul & his imprisonment. He gives high praise of Tychicus (**fortunate**) beloved, brother, faithful, servant, fellow bond servant in Lord.

A Gentile convert of Paul from Asia possibly Ephesus, brought to Jerusalem representing Gentile churches Acts 20:4 Commissioned to carry Paul's letter & verbal report—**mentioned 5 times** in Scripture...Giving report from Paul & reporting back to Paul of how things were going in the church.

Paul turns *my* to *our* circumstances...deflects attention away from himself. **Pastors** should be careful of making themselves **heros** of stories they tell, not drawing attention or eliciting **sympathy** for themselves. Tychicus was to **encourage** church....Paul concerned they not overly anxious about him & his situation. **Crucified w/ Christ** Paul has no **Ego-glory-need for attention**

Onesimus Philemon's run-away slave....Christian w/ Paul--takes ownership of his life....faithful, beloved, brother, one of you...you can be proud of him...**repented & salvation**. Represented you to me

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas' cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him);

Aristachus...mobbed, ruffed up in Ephesus riot Acts 19:23-29...in prison w/ Paul in Rome...tradition says he was beheaded w/ Paul by Nero..Paul names those who ministered w/ him & were martyred w/ him.

Mark cousin of Barnabas--First missionary trip Mark left half way 13:13 & Paul refused to take him next trip 15:39. He failed but restored...church might have reservations so Paul commends..phile 24 'fellow laborer'

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Catholics say Jesus four half brothers were cousins, not so different Grk word cousin or brother **Matt 13:55**

11 and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision; and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.

Jesus was a common name among Jews in first C. It is why Jesus of Nazareth a distinction from others whose name was Jesus. But for the disciples a hesitation to use saviors name so uses Roman *Justus*---He Aristarchus & Mark only Jews, circumcision w/ Paul--*encouragement*

12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Epaphras **1:7** planted church, a resident--*laboring earnestly-agonizomenos* agonizing in prayer as *Jesus in garden*....*stand perfect* fully mature, *full assurance all will of God*--total commitment to revelation...Lao/Hier – neighboring towns....La 9-10 mi (Hon) Heier 20 mi W of Colossae (Hi-Kai)

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

Luke joined Paul at Troas **Acts 16:8-10** and never left...from :8 *they* to pronoun :10 *we*....:10-11 *Aristarchus, Mark, Justus* the only Jews evidence Luke a Gentile, only Gentile writer of NT. Two gospel writers w/ Paul--Mark & Luke gives authenticity to accuracy of Paul's own writings about Jesus.

Demas called '*fellow worker*' *Philem 24* In *2Tim 4:10* '*Demas, having loved this present world has deserted me & gone..*' But here *also Demas* no praise, only silent suggestion of concern for where he's at in his walk?

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15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.

Adelphos of the same womb—Greek enfold in the arms, embrace w/ warmth & Heb Shalom peace. Nympha Grk bride, young woman, Christian w/ church in her home—home fellowship.

16 And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." 18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.

Letters on papyrus plant or vellum animal skins--read & passed from one congregation to another from city to city-**Col to Lao 9 miles**. NT in parts & pieces until full canon 39 books OT; 27 books NT = 66

Archippus – **chief horseman** –**Take heed Blepo** – to see physically w/ spiritual results—perception resulting in taking action.

A word of caution regarding ministry where he is getting distracted, side tracked & lax in his calling--**so a warning**...sad to live a life of regret because didn't take heed to fulfill God's calling in life.

Paul took pen from scribe & signed it himself & reminds them of his imprisonment but not for sympathy but an encouragement that they be earnest for ministry of the gospel. Contrast those like Achippus who abandon ministry God called them to.

Communion