

Colossians 3:18-4:18 – Free to Obey & Witness

Intro: What are one or two experiences in your life that have had a lasting impact on the way you now do things?

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

1. What are the different relationships addressed in this section?
2. *'Christians here seem to be called to things that are going to take work'* – do you agree with this observation? Discuss why this may or may not be the case in each situation as above.
3. Why are Christians called to live these ways? (18, 20, 22-4:1)

Read Colossians 4:2-6

4. How would you describe Paul's understanding of prayer according to these verses?
5. What things does he ask pray for when it comes to his own witness?
6. What is the mystery of Christ that Paul wants to share? (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9)
7. Why might Paul describe what we have in Christ as a mystery? (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21)

8. How would you describe the action and speech Christians are called to in v5-6?

Read Colossians 4:7-18

9. As you read this final section of greetings, what things might you conclude about how all these people are relating together? (compare also what Jesus says in Luke 18:29)

If Jesus is your Lord, this final section (3:18-4:18) of Colossians is a call to have transformed household/work relationships, to be prayer & mission minded and to see yourself as part of a larger world wide family of believers - living according to the future reality we have in him.

Implications (choose one or more of the following)

- Do your relationships at home/work reflect your relationship to Jesus? Or is there more to be desired there?
- Why can it be easy for Christians to be sucked into the world's way of thinking about family & work instead to resolving to do things God's way? (And what's the difference?)
- Is prayer something you'd say you are devoted to? (4:2) What steps can you take in order to move in that direction?
- What is one thing you can/should do as you seek to get *'equipped to make the most of every opportunity' in sharing your faith with others?*
- How are you going at your own personal evangelism? What are the next steps you need to take with particular people?
- How can we better care for and encourage our own church family as we walk together in the common faith?

Finish by spending some time *wrestling in prayer* (4:12) for one another, sharing prayer points as appropriate and as time permits.