

Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians—Lesson 23

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

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 The greeting is in my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. --Colossians 4:16-18

Day 1—Verse 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.
--Colossians 4:16*

1. What does Paul ask the Colossians to do after his letter is read in their gathering?
 - a. What is the reason for his request?

2. How would this letter, addressed to the Colossians, be relevant to the church in Laodicea?
 - a. How is it relevant to us today?

3. The Laodiceans read the book of Colossians; they also read another book (possibly Ephesians). Despite that, they were one of the churches in Revelation who were rebuked. What does this tell us about what can happen when false teaching is unchecked in a church?

4. Was the letter to the Laodiceans inspired Scripture?

5. Notice how Paul has written letters. How do you read a letter when you receive it? How important is it that we continually read all of Scripture in its context?

6. What does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and John 17:17 tell us about the importance and role of Scripture in our life?

Heart Check:

- Is your heart devoted to the word of God, reading it in context, and applying it?
- Are you more prone to start in the middle of a letter, failing to grasp how important it is to read books of the Bible from cover to cover?

Day 2—Verse 17

And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." -Colossians 4:17

1. What do we learn about Archippus from this verse and Philemon 2?
2. What other men does Paul describe as soldiers in his letters?
3. The commentaries are divided on why Paul exhorts Archippus this way. Some view it as a rebuke, that Archippus has not been faithful to his calling. Others view this as encouragement: things were hard and Archippus might be tempted to waver, and this was a personal encouragement from Paul. Taking both options into account, why would it be important for Paul to publicly do this?
4. How might Paul's faithfulness all the way to prison be an encouragement to Archippus to continue to be faithful in his ministry?
5. Define the word ministry (diakonia).

6. According to this verse, where does someone's ministry come from?

7. A man's ministry comes from the Lord. From 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 4:14, 2 Timothy 2:2, and Titus 1:6-9, how important is it that a man be tested by other faithful men to validate God's calling on their life?

8. How do we, as faithful women, fulfill the ministry entrusted to us?

9. What are some examples of ministries typically entrusted to women? Use Scripture to support your answer.

Heart Check:

- If you are married, how can you support the ministry entrusted to your husband?
- How can you support the ministry that takes place at your local church?
- If you are not using your spiritual gift to serve the church, make a plan to begin to use it for God's glory.
- If you do not know what your spiritual gift is, pray and ask God to show you.

Day 3—Verse 18

The greeting is in my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.
--Colossians 4:18

1. Going back to Colossians 1:2, who is the letter truly from?
2. Why would Paul want them to remember his chains?
3. Do you know of anyone who is currently imprisoned for the sake of the gospel?
4. What exhortation do we see in Hebrews 13:3?
5. What do we learn from Matthew 25:35-36?
6. Why do you think Paul ends so many of his letters with “Grace be with you”?
7. Define grace.

Heart Check:

- Even if we do not know anyone currently in chains for the gospel, is there someone you know who is facing intense persecution or possibly in danger for their faith? How can you encourage them? Are you faithfully praying for them?

Day 4—Colossians Conclusion Part 1

1. Write a short summary of and major themes of each chapter of the book of Colossians.

a. Chapter 1

b. Chapter 2

c. Chapter 3

d. Chapter 4

2. What are some concepts you plan to put into action?
3. What concepts in the letter were an encouragement to you?
4. What concepts in the letter were new to you?
5. Is there still something from the book that isn't clear to you?
6. How does this book help you to understand godly living?

Day 5—Colossians Conclusion Part 2

1. How does the book of Colossians highlight the importance of having a right understanding of Christ?

2. The danger of false teaching is a consistent theme in this book. Are there any areas of your life where you are listening to false teaching?
 - a. Point out the major areas of false teaching from the book. How do we see these play out today?

3. How many times does Paul mention prayer in this book?

4. How important did Paul view prayer?
 - a. How often do you pray? For other believers? For other churches? For our elders?

5. How many times does Paul mention being grateful and thankful? How do we grow in thankfulness and gratitude?

a. What is a major stumbling block to thanksgiving?

6. What are some aspects of Paul's life that are worth imitating as we continue our walk with Christ?

7. Whose life most stuck out to you in this book? How will you follow their example?

Dig Deeper:

- Spend the summer going over the Heart Checks and Dig Deepers to help solidify the book of Colossians into your heart, mind, and actions!