**RISE UP** in 2021

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***ALL WE NEED***

A Study in the Book of Colossians

**In This Together**

Colossians 4:2-18



Christ is **all we need** … do you believe that?

If you could give a parting speech, a few words to encourage those you were leaving behind … **what would you say?**

**There are many famous last words recorded in history …**

William Henry Seward, U.S. Secretary of State and architect of the Alaska Purchase, was asked if he had any final words. He replied, “***Nothing, only ‘love one another.***’”

Or George Eliot who said, *“Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love.”*

Your last **words** can make **lasting** impressions.

They say something about you and those who have been with you on this journey. No one likes to be alone, especially when life is tough and we are committed to the mission of Christ. **But we must remember …**

We are in this together in **prayer**.

*Continue* ***steadfastly*** *in* ***prayer****, being* ***watchful*** *in it with* ***thanksgiving****.* Colossians 4:2

**Be Persistent -** *proskartereō*, - to persist in something, or busy oneself with, be busily engaged in, be devoted to.

Persist in prayer; be **devoted** to it.

**Be Alert -** *grēgoreō* - Being watchful, keeping alert, to stay awake, be watchful, to be in constant readiness, be on the alert.

Listen **up**, look around, pay **attention**.

**Be Thankful -** *eucharistia* - Being thankful, the expression or content of gratitude, the rendering of thanks, thanksgiving.

Thankfulness is the **language** of faith.

When we thank God for what He has done, it encourages us in faith to expect answers to our prayers.

*At the same time,* ***pray also for us*** *…* Colossians 4:3a

A faith filled **prayer** can open shut doors.

Do you feel like a door has been shut or that a closed door just will not open? Why do you want the door open? Money, comfort, personal power, prestige or position … is it about you or about God?

Look at the focus of the pray …

*that God may open to us* ***a door for the word****, to* ***declare the mystery of Christ****, on account of which I am in prison— that I may* ***make it clear****, which is how I ought to speak.* Colossians 4:3–4

We are in this together on **mission**.

***You ask and do not receive****,* ***because you ask wrongly****, to* ***spend it on your passions****. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.* James 4:3–4

Pray for God **opportunities.**

*And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and* ***how he had opened a door of faith*** *to the Gentiles.* Acts 14:27

*But* ***I will stay in Ephesus*** *until Pentecost, for* ***a wide door for effective work has opened to me****, and there are many adversaries.* 1 Corinthians 16:8–9

Pray for faithful **teaching.**

*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,* ***always being prepared to make a defense*** *to anyone who* ***asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you****; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.* 1 Peter 3:15–16

*He (Paul) lived there (Rome) two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,* ***proclaiming*** *the kingdom of God and* ***teaching*** *about the Lord Jesus Christ* ***with all boldness*** *and without hindrance.* Acts 28:30–31

Pray for wise **words.**

*The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters;* ***the fountain of wisdom*** *is a bubbling brook.* Proverbs 18:4

We are in this together for **others**.

*Walk in* ***wisdom toward outsiders****,* ***making the best use of the time.*** *Let your* ***speech always be gracious****, seasoned with salt, so that you may know* ***how you ought to answer*** *each person.* Colossians 4:5-6

Kairos moments – when the time, the opportunity is right!

*for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”* ***Look carefully then how you walk****, not as unwise but as wise, making* ***the best use of the time****, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* Ephesians 5:14–17

You are not **alone** … we are in this **together**.

*So long as the memory of certain beloved friends lives in my heart, I shall say that life is good.* Helen Keller

Who would make your list? The list of friends, family who have stood by your side, sacrificing, laboring, working toward the high call of a life devoted to Christ …

Tychicus …

***Tychicus*** *will tell you all about my activities.* ***He is a beloved brother*** *and* ***faithful minister*** *and* ***fellow servant*** *in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that* ***he may encourage your hearts*** *…* Colossians 4:7-8

Beloved, faithful minister, servant in the Lord …

Who is the Tychicus in your life?

Onesimus …

*… and with him* ***Onesimus****, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.* Colossians 4:9

We all are like Onesimus, once slaves and now free in Christ and yet seeking to experience that freedom in the day to day reality of our lives.

Aristarchus … Mark … Barnabas … Justus

***Aristarchus*** *my fellow prisoner greets you, and* ***Mark*** *the cousin of* ***Barnabas*** *(concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called* ***Justus****. These are the only* ***men of the circumcision*** *among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.* Colossians 4:10-11

Brothers with a special bond … a shared heritage and past.

Epaphras …

***Epaphras****, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.* Colossians 4:12–13

Who is praying for you? Laboring in love and prayer on your behalf?

Luke …

***Luke*** *the beloved physician greets you, as does* ***Demas****.* Colossians 4:14

*Luke is a Syrian of Antioch, a Syrian by race, a physician by profession. He had become a disciple of the apostles and later followed Paul until his (Paul's) martyrdom, having served the Lord continuously, unmarried, without children, filled with the Holy Spirit he died at the age of eighty-four years in Boeotia.* **Anti-Marcionite Prologue to the Gospel of Luke*(perhaps from the late second century AD)***

Demas …

*For* ***Demas****, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. …* 2 Timothy 4:10

**Not everyone stays the course** … do you have a Demas in your life? Have you been or are you now a Demas … more in love with this present world than you are with Jesus and His mission to seek and save the lost?

Nympha …

*Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to* ***Nympha*** *and* ***the church in her house****.* *And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.* Colossians 4:15-16

Nympha, like others, opened up her life to Christ and used what she had to further the church … how do you do the same with your resources? Home, influence, finances, etc.?

Archippus …

*And say to* ***Archippus****, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”* Colossians 4:17

*… Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:* Philemon 2

Can you imagine sitting in church and hearing your name called out with this encouragement? Put your name there … and hear the Lord say this to you.

*I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.* ***Remember my chains****. Grace be with you.* Colossians 4:16–18

**We are in this together** … as we press into becoming whole people, taking the whole gospel to the whole world.

Who are the people who share your love for Christ?

Who are the people on the outside that you are praying for?

Who are the people in your life that you are journeying with, learning from and praying for?

**Doing Life Together**

1. Discover God’s **mission** … His calling and purpose for your life.

2. Take some **friends** with you.

3. Pray for God to **lead** you …

* through open doors
* faithful to your calling
* with wise words and
* gracious speech

For the glory of God, may His grace be with you!