

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | Ephesians | Philipians | **Colossians**

Lesson #20 – Colossians 4

Main Idea

This is the last lesson in our General Electric Power Company series. It's hard to believe we started on this journey over five months ago in January. I have thoroughly enjoyed our time together and the many discussions and exchanges we've had on Sunday mornings. I definitely have a better grasp of the messages that Paul had for the Galatians, Ephesians, Philipians, and Colossians than I had previously. I hope you feel the same way.

I think it would be safe to say that if each Believer was to live the Christian life as outlined by Paul in these four epistles, not only would our lives be completely different – we would change the world for Christ. Today, there are so many facets of life that cry for our attention. These are not limited to, but certainly include, family (immediate and extended), church, work, professional societies, community service, neighbors, and school. At times it is amazing we have the ability to focus on anything, much less serving Jesus. We have not previously discussed **simplification**, but it seems a good way to end the current series. In Colossians 3:22 – 4:1, Paul has words of wisdom for masters and slaves. While this message is undoubtedly applicable to today's employers and employees, the *slave and master* concept is also inherent in our relationship with God (i.e. Romans 6:22). **If as Believers you and I were to simplify our lives to the point of becoming slaves to God, how much of our daily struggles would cease to exist?** The sole purpose of a slave is to do the work and will of their master. *Let us act as those who are called to serve, and less as those who act as if they were created to be served.*

Overview of Chapter 4

4:2-6 Petitions for prayer and encouragement for Christ-like living
4:7-18 Key Believers in the life of the Colossians and closing comments

1. Read Colossians 3:22 – 4:1 and the Romans 6 passage below. As Believers, list all of the important aspects associated with our being slaves that you can think of including, but not limited to, our salvation, obedience, will, and purpose.

Romans 6:21-23: ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² **But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.** ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in ^[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. In reading Colossians 4:2-6 would you consider yourself to be devoted to prayer? List some specific steps you can take to improve your communication with Christ.
3. Verses 5 and 6 focus on our relationship as Believers with others, specifically non-Believers. Provide an example for the group of a time when you made the most of an opportunity. Also, provide a time when you blew an opportunity to share Christ with another.
4. Read Colossians 4:7-18. Paul speaks of Epaphras in verses 12-13 and how he wrestled in prayer for the Colossians. What does it mean to wrestle in prayer for someone? Have you ever done this for another?



Colossians 3 (New International Version, 1984)

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.

Colossians 4 (New International Version, 1984)

¹ Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Further Instructions

² Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Final Greetings

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our^[a] circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ After 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.

¹⁷ Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.”

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

Footnotes:

- a. [Colossians 4:8](#) Some manuscripts *that he may know about your*

