



Completing The Picture

Colossians 4:2-18

#10 in a series on *Jesus: Supreme & Sufficient* (Colossians)

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January 8, 2023

You are complete in Christ, you have a new perspective, so ...

1. Be devoted to prayer. (2-4, 18)
2. Be active, graceful in witness. (5-6)
3. Be encouraging to other believers. (7-9, 11, 13, 18)
4. Be faithful in ministry. (17)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Colossians 4:2-18. The first of four elements Paul uses to complete the picture of his message is prayer (see 4:2-4, 18). Is prayer a key feature of your life? Do you block out regular times to spend with God? Do you keep Him in your mind and have brief conversations with Him throughout the day?

Prayer is vital to a meaningful relationship with God and includes praying for others, including some people we have never met.

Tuesday. The second completing element Paul gives us is to be active, graceful in our witness (read verses 5-6). The wisdom in verse 5 is God's wisdom. How do you receive God's wisdom? Check James 1:5-7. Wisdom is essential to making the most of every opportunity to witness for Christ. Think of some positive and negative examples from your own experience. Now go back to verse six. Is your speech "always with grace"?

Wednesday. Today focus on Paul's directions to encourage other believers. We see this in verses 7-17. Read this section, noting the people he mentions (we don't know much about them). Paul gives information, expresses his appreciation for them, and also the concern of those with him for the Colossian believers. Have you been encouraging people this week? Everyone needs encouragement, just as you do.

Thursday. The final emphasis Paul gives is to be faithful in your ministry (4:17). In Philemon 2 he refers to Archippus as "our fellow soldier." He was engaged in ministry, fighting the good fight, and Paul encouraged him to be faithful in it.

Have you been faithful this week to new, perhaps even unexpected opportunities of serving Christ? Have you been faithful in the service that you have committed to do?

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to begin a series in the eighth of the twelve minor prophets, Habakkuk. Read and think through 1:1-4 as you prepare for our time together.