

MESSAGE

DEVOTED TO JESUS

JESUS AT THE CENTER | COLOSSIANS 4:2-18 | MAY 21/22, 2016 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you."
(Colossians 4:18)

Devoted with Words (Colossians 4:2-6)

Words with God

- Words of gratitude
- Words about others

Words with Others

- Words that are right on-time
- Words that connect

Devoted with People (Colossians 4:7-18)

Companions in service

Companions in the journey

STUDY GUIDE

1. Start your study by answering one of these questions:
 - What has brought you the most joy and life in the last year? Why?
 - Who has been one of your greatest encouragers in life? How have they been that for you?
2. This weekend we conclude our series, "Jesus at the Center," by studying Colossians 4:2-18. Whether you are on your own or with a small group, begin your study in prayer, asking God to speak to you through His word, and then read that portion aloud.
3. This concluding section of Paul and Timothy's letter brings together some final instructions and greetings to people. How would you describe the instructions about prayer in 4:2-4?
4. In 4:5-6, the believers are instructed about their relationships with "outsiders," meaning those not in the church. What are the key characteristics of this instruction?
5. How would you describe your relationship with those not in the church? What do you think it looks like for you to "make the most of every opportunity"?
6. The greetings at the end of the letter are so personal and engaging. Let's look at Paul's words to and about each person in 4:7-14 (you may also want to look at some of the additional mentions of each person in the New Testament)
 - 4:7-8 - Tychicus (also Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12)
 - 4:9 - Onesimus (also Philemon 10)
 - 4:10 - Aristarchus (also Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Philemon 24)
 - 4:10 - Mark (also Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37-39; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13)
 - 4:11 - Jesus Justus (no other mentions in the Bible)
 - 4:12-13 - Epaphras (also Colossians 1:7-8; Philemon 23)
 - 4:14 - Luke (also Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11; Romans 16:21)
 - 4:14 - Demas (also Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:10)
7. Why do you think these friends were so important for Paul to mention?
8. Who are some of the believing friends you have like these people in your own life today? What do they contribute to your life and what do you contribute to theirs?
9. In 4:15-18, Paul and Timothy write to the individuals found in the churches in Laodicea and Colossae about sharing letters with one another. Remember that these churches were probably gatherings of anywhere from 5 to 30 people meeting in a house. What do
10. What is one significant thing that God is speaking to you through this weekend's study? What is one of your biggest growth areas from this entire journey through Colossians, "Jesus at the Center"? If you are on your own, you may want to write these things down, pray about them, and then share your thoughts with someone later. If you are with a small group, share these things with one another and then pray for one another.

[NEXT WEEK IS A FAMILY WORSHIP WEEKEND AT EASTBROOK CHURCH. WE WILL LOOK AT THE STORY FOUND IN JOSHUA 4. READ IT AHEAD OF TIME ON YOUR OWN OR WITH OTHERS TO PREPARE.]

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