



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Colossians 4:2-18

Inductive Discovery Lesson 21

Paul began this letter by telling the Colossians he prayed for them. He even told them what he prayed. *I ask God to give you insight and understanding to know His will. I pray you will honor the Lord by the way you live. I pray you will be fruitful in good works, growing in strength and patience. I pray you will always be thankful for your salvation, never forgetting that Jesus rescued you from a life of darkness. I pray you will keep walking by faith, never drifting away from the hope you've been given!* Thank you Paul! Thank you for spending time on your knees for us. Now what can we pray for you?

Pray that God will give me opportunities to preach—and that I will proclaim the Word as clearly as I should. This from a gifted communicator who had been preaching for more than 30 years! What does that say about Paul's attitude toward prayer? He didn't rely on passion, and conviction, and skilled knowledge (though he had all that) to share the gospel—he needed strength from God so he asked for it.

Paul knew from years of first-hand experience that prayer is essential for life. Faith that stops praying stops growing. So he finishes this letter with some plain-spoken advice. ***“Devote yourselves to prayer...”*** Put all your heart and energy into it!

Working Text for Colossians 4:2-18
English Standard Version (ESV)

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us, 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— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. **8** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, **9** 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.

10 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), **11** 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. **12** 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. **13** For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. **14** Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. **15** Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her

house. **16** 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.

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

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



OBSERVATION

Read the section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Colossians 4:2-4

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Colossians 4:5-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

(continued on next page)

Facts from the passage:

Facts from the passage:

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It contains ten identical rows of horizontal dashed lines, each row consisting of three parallel lines spaced evenly apart. The lines are light gray and extend across the entire width of the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. There is no text or other markings on the page.

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Colossians 4:7-18

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Colossians 4:2-18.

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“continue **earnestly** in prayer” (vs. 2) _____

“being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving” (vs.2) _____

“Let your **speech** always be with grace” (vs.6) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Colossians 4:2-4

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

Colossians 4:5-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

Colossians 4:7-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____ ?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

Let your speech always be with grace,
as though seasoned with salt,
so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
Colossians 4:6 NAS

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

Words are born in the heart, not in the head.

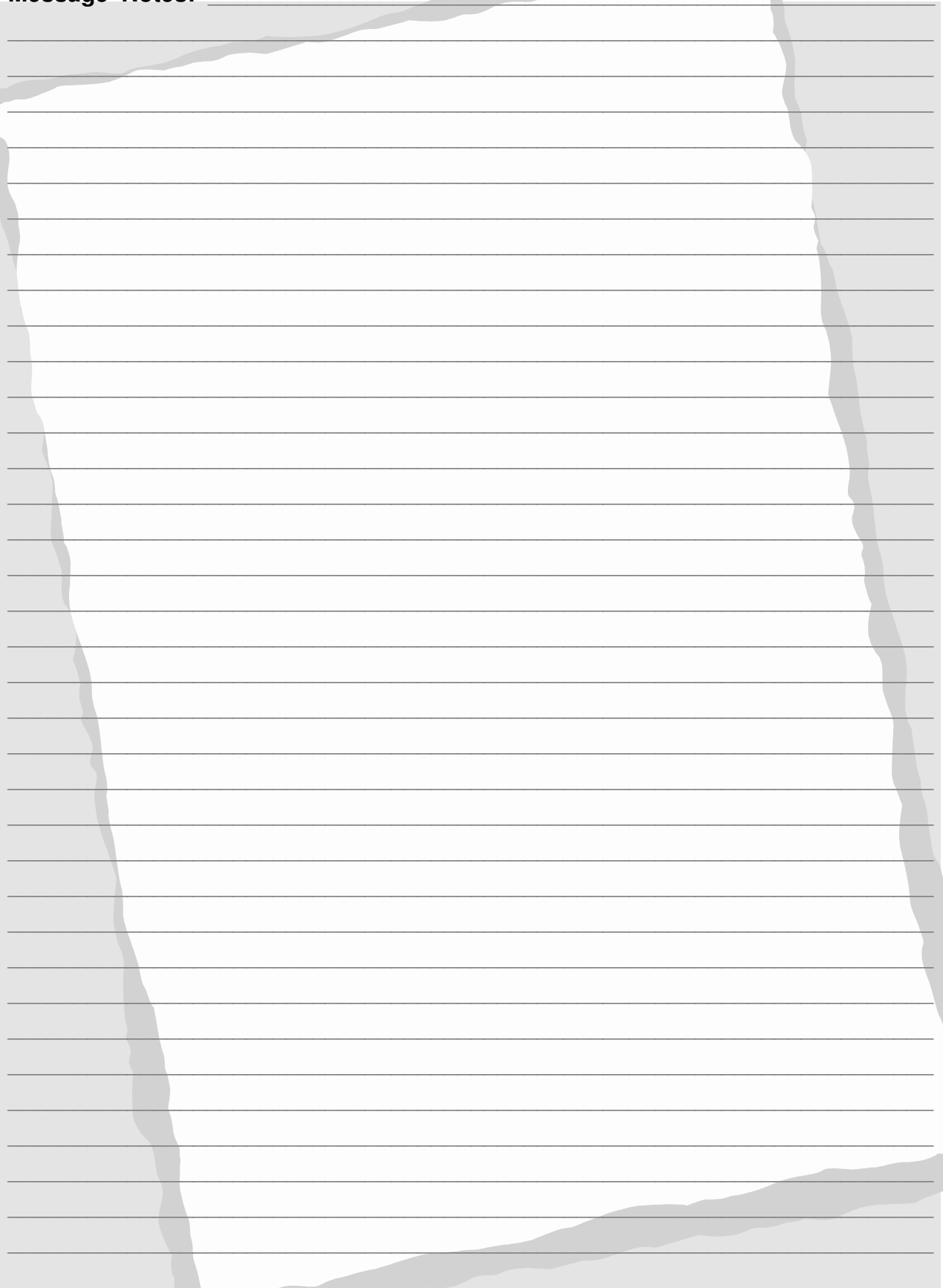
Oswald Chambers



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The area is defined by a thick, irregular, torn-paper-like border on the left and bottom edges. The top edge is straight. The background of the area is light gray, and the lines are thin and gray.



©2009 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved.