

# COLOSSIANS 4 vs 1

KJV-lite™ VERSES

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<sup>1</sup> **Masters** / literally: **kurios**; this word is used over 700 times in the New Testament... when we read... the **Lord** Jesus, or the **Lord** God. Paul uses the word 16 times in this letter to the Colossians: 12 times translated: **Lord**; 4 times translated: **master**... because that is what **kurios** means: Lord, master, owner... the one who has control, the chief ruler. The **landlord** is the manager of the property, right?

Paul says, **kurios**... lords...

**Masters... give to your servants** / those slaving for you.

**that which is just and equal** / this word: equal... refers to the portion... their portion... their rightful portion... which too often... gets sliced too thin... by those who lord-it-over them... including: greedy bosses, and greedy governments. You know, most people don't believe Jesus, who said, When you did it to the least... what you did to the least... you did to Me! Hmm?!

Paul says, **kurios**... lords...

**Masters... give to your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that all of you also have a kurios / a Master in heaven**; here, Paul lets the big-shots know... everybody has a Boss... and He's watching!

<sup>2</sup> **Continue in prayer** / talking to God, right?!

**and watch in the same** / keep your eyes open, watch in prayer. In other words, keep your eyes open; expect God to answer quickly... He doesn't need a committee meeting!

**giving thanks** / yes! The word is: **eucharistia**; this is the last time Paul uses this word. And you get the impression, the Lord likes thankful people, doesn't He?!

<sup>3</sup> **praying for us** / with all means and methods,

**that God makes an opening for His Word,**

**to speak the mystery of Christ** / which is what this whole letter is about: the mystery of Jesus the Christ our Good Pastor searching for His sheep, and another they will not follow... that mystery being revealed.

**for which I am also in bonds** / Paul is a prisoner; he's captured by this message:

<sup>4</sup> **that I make it manifest** / that I make the mystery of Christ... clear... and plain to see,



**as I ought to speak** / no discursive jargon; no non-discursive ambiguity; no hocus pocus necessary.

<sup>5</sup> **Walk in wisdom toward them that are without** / he says, **Christ is the Wisdom of God** -- 1Corinthians, So, when Paul says, Walk in wisdom... I think it's more than just grand-pa's wisdom. Hey, grand-pa's wisdom is fine... for some things; for lots of things... but even, he would say, Christ's is better! toward those outside the faith. Said differently, **this walk is no monastic retreat**.

Paul says...

**Walk in wisdom... redeeming the time** / the word is: **agorazo**; it is purchasing out... it is buying up, and rescuing from loss... out of the marketplace of mankind. People say, There is never enough time. C.S. Lewis said, There never was supposed to have been enough time. There will be enough eternity. For now, God expects all of us... to make decisions; and in our priorities, we show what we value most; to speak as we ought to speak... about the mystery of Christ... in whom we have redemption:

<sup>6</sup> **Let your speech always be with grace** / with charis; with God's favor. It's the way God our Father speaks to us... when He says, Grace and peace to you. Paul says, speak always...with grace. Let your speech always have the ingredient of grace... sprinkled in it,

**like seasoning something with salt** / God's grace is the only preservative from decay and spoilage. So be generous with grace... even to those who are without,

**that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.**

<sup>7</sup> **All my status Tychicus will declare to you, he is a beloved brother,**

**and faithful minister in the Lord:**

<sup>8</sup> **whom I sent to you for the same purpose, that he knows your status,**

**and comforts your hearts;**

<sup>9</sup> **with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you** / he is from their neighborhood.

**They will make known to you what is being done here.**

<sup>10</sup> **Aristarchus my fellow prisoner salutes you, and Marcus, nephew of Barnabas, touching whom you received commands** / Paul is saying, He is the one I told you about... and you received instructions: **if he comes to you, receive him** / welcome him.

<sup>11</sup> **And Jesus** / or Yeshua, **who is called Justus, who are of the circumcision** / that phrase delicately placed there... is sort of funny. Paul says, Those guys are of the circumcision. They are not going to be like you Gentiles. They might appear a little goofy... and traditional... and odd... and awkward among all you uncircumcised and free in Christ folk; but, they're nice guys... so welcome them.

**These only are my fellow workers in the kingdom of God,**

**who have been a comfort to me.**

**<sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus,**

**Epaphras... greets you, always laboring for you in his prayers that you stand perfect, and complete in all the will of God** / he is from your region, always agonizing for you; that you may be fully assured in faith completely maturing...

**<sup>13</sup> For I bear him record, that he has a great zeal for you, and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis** / that he has intense labor... intense pain for the neighboring cities to Colossae.

**<sup>14</sup> Luke, the beloved physician**

What an interesting person Luke must have been. The renowned archaeologist Sir William Ramsey wrote of him: Luke is a historian of the first rank. Not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy... but he should be placed along with the very greatest of historians. Luke has been compared with the Greek historian, Thucydides, who is often called: the father of scientific history... because of his strict standards of evidence gathering and analysis. Luke was not an eye-witness to Christ; but he was a disciple of Paul.

Paul enduringly says...

**the beloved physician.**

**Luke... and Demas** / and what a contrast in one verse. The last thing we know about Demas is: sometime later... he would forsake Paul.

But in this letter, Paul writes...

**Luke... and Demas greet you.**

**<sup>15</sup> Salute the brethren who are in Laodicea; and Nymphas and the church that is in their house.** / we often forget that the early church... and the church throughout the ages... usually met in homes. The last supper... and its commemoration of the table of the Lord... was done in the homes. No procession necessary; no tremulous music; no screechy choir; no worship teams; no mumbo jumbo; no hocus pocus. Just... do this: and remember Me -- short and simple; clear... and plain.

And hey, when is the last time you took bread... and a cup... in your home... and remembered Jesus... and what He did?

Let's hear it again...

**Salute the brethren who are in Laodicea; and Nymphas and the church that is in their house.**

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**16 And when this epistle is read among you / when you read this letter to the Colossians, then cause it also to be read in the church of the Laodiceans;**

**and you likewise read that from Laodicea** / and this verse 16... is interesting, isn't it?! His words are instructive... and prophetic... for the last generation. That's the 5<sup>th</sup> time Paul has mentioned Laodicea. He sounds concerned; he knows something. Verse 16... has prompted many theories to arise. The word: *epistle*... is in italics... which indicates it's added by the translator. And here are just some of the theories:

Theory #1 - It's a lost letter... which raises the question: what happens if we ever find it? Do we add it to the bible?

Theory #2 - Paul is really talking about the letter... we now call: the Book of the Ephesians

Theory #3 - It's some other manuscript that theologians argue over

So, I will add my theory – God is not a wind-up clock; and if a letter Paul wrote... got lost in the mail, not a surprise. He still had John write... to the Laodiceans. And God, being Sovereign said, I'll go with it. Maybe Revelation 3:14-22, is all we need to know about that last and worst expression of a congregation -- Laodicea. The message of Colossians: the Preeminent Christ... would have served... and preserved them well.

Paul says... **when this epistle / to the Colossians... is read among you, then cause it also to be read in the church of the Laodiceans.**

If these words of instruction are prophetic, then the Spirit is telling us: Read this Letter to the Colossians... read it; and study it... in the weak and faithless congregations that gather -- the last and worst expression of the church... found in the last days;

**and that you likewise read that for Laodicea / found in Revelation, chapter 3.**

**17 And say to Ar'chippus / or Ar-ki'-poos; or Ar-chi-PUS, the pronunciation? It doesn't matter. We never met!**

**And say to Archie, Take heed / pay attention, to the ministry which you received in the Lord, that you fulfill it / in other words, Paul says... the Lord called you to serve Him. Don't fail Him!**

**18 I, Paul add this greeting in my own hand-writing; remember my bonds / remember my chains; chains being in prison? Or his chains and bonds of love for them? Or both? Paul says **Remember me;****

**I remember you... with grace.**

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