

The Judgment Seat of Christ

Colossians 4:1-5

By: David A. Sargent

Colossians 4:1-5, “Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

Colossians 4:1, “Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.”

In Biblical times there were hired and owned servants and their boss was the Master: this is a similitude to the Child of God in the respect of our bodies which are to be bond-servants to our soul, and to the Lord Jesus Christ: the Spirit inside us. Both of which are sons of God: the Spirit by virtue of being Born Again: and the Soul by virtue of the Adoption of Sons. Soon the body will also be reconciled to God, and this body will become also a son of God by virtue of the resurrection of the sons of Light.

Colossians 4:2, “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”

Three things here to continue in: 1 Prayer, 2 Watching and 3 Thanksgiving. The Bible says that as you have received the Lord Jesus SO WALK IN HIM. Colossians 2:6, “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:” Thus walking is very much the act of faith in Christ by Prayer, because God wants us to communicate with Him: by being Watchful; because we have many adversaries, we also need to watch for who God wants us to witness too. And by being Thankful: because God is worthy of our praise and honour: we should be thankful for whatever state we are in: Philippians 4:11, “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” So what is your state: or status in life? Whatsoever it is: BE CONTENT that God wants you THERE: be thankful.

Colossians 4:3, “Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”

“Withal” is a word that can mean “While doing this...” A connective word that in this case connects the prayer of verse 2, with the praying of verse 3. Paul WANTS them to pray for HIM. As we would want you to pray for US: “...that God would open unto us a door of utterance...” that could be opportunity, or ability or both. The subject is always to speak the mystery of Christ: because one of the mysteries is the Gospel itself. Think about it: how can it be that MY GOD DIED for me? What an amazing thing: and yet what a mysterious thing. Paul was even in JAIL for preaching the gospel. He was there for doing RIGHT! And didn't

complain about the STATUS or where he was: but PRAISED God for the BONDS he was in.

Colossians 4:4, “That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

This verse is a continuation of what Paul wanted them to pray for: and for US: That we might make the gospel MANIFEST: or visible to all: and as well all so ought to speak: as we are all ambassadors for Christ: and are here in Christ STEAD: 2 Corinthians 5:20, “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

Colossians 4:5, “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

Walking in wisdom would constitute a walk in Christ and in the words of the Bible. This should be done not as pretense but from the heart so it is not only toward them, but FOR them that are without: or outside the body of Christ. This is our witness to the lost so that they might be saved: it is our testimony: and the testimony of the Bible in our lives that does this. By the very act of these things: we are redeeming the time: Ephesians 5:16, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” The time you spend doing NOTHING is wasted time: it is time you will NEVER get back. You can use up your allotted time here and study the Bible, do as much as you can to win someone to Christ, and the time you spend in these things including Pray, Watching, and Thanksgiving: are time spent doing for Christ what you CAN DO: that will count for EVERLASTING REWARDS that no one can take away. Waste your time here on earth and all you will have will be: wood, hay, and stubble: to be burned up: 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

1 Corinthians 3:11-15, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”



Gold



Silver



Precious Stones



Wood



Hay



Stubble

“...Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” 1 Corinthians 3:13



“If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” 1 Corinthians 3:15

Romans 14:10-12, “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” And 2 Corinthians 5:10-11, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”