

Discussion Guide Colossians 4:15-18

Opening Prayer

Pray thanking the Lord for his provision of the local church. Ask Him to cultivate in you a greater commitment to His body, a deeper hunger for His Word, greater partnership with your ministers, greater dependence in prayer, and greater joy in his grace.

Recap

As the letter to the Colossians closes, we see that Christ will not leave this fledgling church without resources in Him. The church perseveres because Christ is building it. He is its chief cornerstone and upon Him the whole edifice is built. He equips the church by providing gathered worship, His Word, ministers, prayer, and grace.

Understanding the Text

1. What is Nympha's role in the church and what does this show us about the importance of every member helping to support the regular gathering of the church?
2. What place did the public reading of the Bible have in the early church? What should it have in our church?
3. What was the letter to the Laodiceans? Should we be concerned that we no longer have it?
4. What place does God's sovereignty have in the Bible's preservation? How are they interrelated concepts?
5. In what way is a minister a gift to the church? How does this also apply to those who are not in vocational ministry?
6. What is Archipus' responsibility in verse 17? What is the church's responsibility?
7. Why does Paul say that he writes a greeting "with his own hand?"
8. In what way are the Colossians to remember Paul's imprisonment?
9. Why does Paul greet them in his own hand?
10. How does "grace be with you" fit within the theme and purpose of this letter?

Practical Application

1. How are you helping to provide for the gathering of the local church?
2. Do you hold the word of God in proper regard in the church? In daily life?
3. Do you see prayer as a “chore” or a blessing from the Lord?
4. How can you encourage your pastors to fulfill their ministry? How can you encourage those who are pursuing the pastorate?
5. Are you faithful in the ministries the Lord has placed you in?
6. Where do you struggle to live in a way that recognizes the grace of God?

God Has More to Say

Gifts and Gathering in the Local Church

Acts 2:42

Rom. 12:4-5

1 Cor. 14:25

Heb. 10:24-25

Christ’s provision of the Word

Ephesians 6:17

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12

Christ’s Provision of Ministers

Acts 20:28

1 Corinthians 12:28

Ephesian 4:11–12

1 Peter 5:2–4

Christ’s Provision of Prayer

Mark 11:24

Romans 8:26

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Hebrews 4:16

Christ’s Provision of Grace

John 1:16

2 Corinthians 12:9

2 Peter 3:18

Acts 20:32