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Colossians

The book of Colossians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Colossae, which is located in modern-day Turkey. It is one of the letters referred to as the "Pauline Epistles" in the New Testament of the Christian Bible.

The letter is believed to have been written around AD 60-62 while Paul was in prison, and it is addressed to both the believers in Colossae and to Philemon, a prominent member of the church. The purpose of the letter is to address some of the false teachings that were being circulated in the church and to encourage the believers to grow in their faith in Christ.

In the letter, Paul emphasizes the supremacy of Christ and his role as the head of the church. He also emphasizes the importance of unity among believers and the need to avoid worldly philosophies and traditions that are not consistent with the teachings of Christ.

Some of the key themes in the book of Colossians include:

1. The supremacy of Christ - Paul emphasizes that Christ is the head of the church and that all things were created through him and for him.
2. The reconciliation of believers - Paul emphasizes the need for unity among believers and the importance of forgiving one another and living in harmony.
3. The danger of false teachings - Paul warns the Colossians to avoid teachings that are not consistent with the teachings of Christ and to remain steadfast in their faith.
4. The importance of prayer and thanksgiving - Paul encourages the Colossians to pray and to give thanks to God for all things.

Overall, the book of Colossians is a powerful reminder of the importance of staying true to the teachings of Christ and of the need for unity and reconciliation among believers.

Chapter 1: Paul begins by giving thanks for the faith and love of the Colossians, and he offers a prayer for their spiritual growth. He emphasizes the supremacy of Christ and his role in reconciling all things to himself.

Chapter 2: Paul warns the Colossians to avoid false teachings and encourages them to remain steadfast in their faith in Christ. He emphasizes that Christ is the head of the church and that believers have been made complete in him.

Chapter 3: Paul encourages the Colossians to set their hearts and minds on things above and to put to death the sinful nature. He emphasizes the importance of love, unity, and forgiveness among believers.

Chapter 4: Paul offers instructions for how the Colossians should live their lives, including how to treat others with respect and kindness. He also sends greetings from various individuals, including Tychicus, Onesimus, and Luke.

Overall, the book of Colossians emphasizes the supremacy of Christ, the need for believers to remain steadfast in their faith, and the importance of love and unity among believers

Colossians 1

New International Version

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters[a] in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.[b]

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6 that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant,[c] who is a faithful minister of Christ on our[d] behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,[e] 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of the Son of God

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether

thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of [g] your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Labor for the Church

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Footnotes

Colossians 1:2 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in 4:15.

Colossians 1:2 Some manuscripts Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:7 Or slave

Colossians 1:7 Some manuscripts your

Colossians 1:9 Or all spiritual wisdom and understanding

Colossians 1:12 Some manuscripts us

Colossians 1:21 Or minds, as shown by

Chapter 1 of Colossians starts with a greeting from Paul and Timothy to the church in Colossae. They express their gratitude for the faith, love, and hope that the Colossians have in Christ Jesus, and they pray for them to continue to grow in their understanding of God's will.

Paul then goes on to praise the role of Christ in the universe, declaring that he is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of all creation. Paul explains that all things were created through Christ and for him, and that he holds everything together. He emphasizes Christ's preeminence and supremacy over all things.

Paul then moves on to talk about the reconciliation that has been achieved through Christ's death on the cross. He explains that through his sacrifice, Christ has reconciled all things to himself, whether things on earth or in heaven. He also speaks about his own role in proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles, which is the hope of glory in Christ. Finally, Paul expresses his concern for the Colossians, and he encourages them to continue to stand firm in their faith. He prays that they will be filled with the knowledge of God's will and that they will have spiritual wisdom and understanding. He ends the chapter by declaring that everything is from Christ, and for him, and that he is the head of the body, which is the church.

In summary, chapter 1 of Colossians focuses on the supremacy of Christ, his role in creation and reconciliation, and the importance of standing firm in the faith. Paul emphasizes the centrality of Christ to everything, and he encourages the Colossians to continue to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's will.

Here are some important verses from chapter 1 of Colossians, along with a brief explanation and reference to where they can be found in the chapter:

1. "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people" (Colossians 1:3-4).

This verse emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus and love for other believers, and how it is a source of gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

2. "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

This verse emphasizes the supremacy of Christ as the creator and sustainer of all things, and that all things were created for His purposes.

3. "And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy" (Colossians 1:18).

This verse emphasizes that Christ is the head of the Church, and that He is the first to be raised from the dead, indicating His power and authority over death and sin.

4. "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:21-22).

This verse highlights the reconciliation that Christ brings between us and God through His sacrifice on the cross, allowing us to be made holy and blameless in God's sight.

5. "I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people" (Colossians 1:25-26).

This verse emphasizes Paul's role as a servant of God and his commission to share the fullness of God's word, including the mystery of Christ's salvation, which was once hidden but is now revealed to believers.

The book of Colossians in the New Testament of the Bible is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christian community in Colossae. It contains several important

theological thoughts and has had a significant theological influence throughout Christian history. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Colossians chapter 1:

Supremacy of Christ: One of the central theological themes in Colossians 1 is the supremacy of Christ. Paul emphasizes that Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation (Colossians 1:15). This underscores the divinity and preeminence of Christ in the Christian faith.

Creation and Sustenance: The chapter also highlights that through Christ, all things were created, both in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. It emphasizes Christ's role in creation and how He sustains all things (Colossians 1:16-17). This speaks to the idea of Christ as the cosmic ruler and sustainer of the universe.

Reconciliation through the Cross: Colossians 1:20 speaks of Christ reconciling all things to Himself through the blood of His cross. This theological thought underscores the redemptive work of Christ on the cross, bringing reconciliation between humanity and God.

Mystery Revealed: Paul mentions the "mystery" hidden for ages but now revealed to the saints (Colossians 1:26). This mystery is often understood to refer to the plan of salvation through Christ, which was not fully understood in the Old Testament but has been unveiled in the New Testament.

The theological influence of Colossians 1 can be seen in several ways:

Christological Theology: Colossians 1 plays a significant role in shaping Christological theology, emphasizing the divinity and supremacy of Christ. This has had a lasting impact on Christian understanding of Jesus as the Son of God.

Soteriology: The passage on reconciliation through the cross has influenced Christian soteriology (the study of salvation), highlighting the centrality of Christ's sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God.

Ecclesiology: Colossians also touches on the nature of the church as the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18). This has influenced discussions about the role and significance of the church in Christian theology.

Eschatology: The mention of the mystery revealed can be linked to eschatology (the study of the end times) and the fulfillment of God's plan through Christ.

In summary, Colossians chapter 1 contains theological thoughts related to the supremacy of Christ, creation, reconciliation, and the unveiling of a divine mystery. Its influence can be seen in the development of key theological concepts within Christian theology, particularly in Christology and soteriology.

Colossians 2

New International Version

2 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Spiritual Fullness in Christ

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[a] of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh[b] was put off when you were circumcised by[c] Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you[d] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.[e]

Freedom From Human Rules

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. 18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. 19 They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all

destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Footnotes

Colossians 2:8 Or the basic principles; also in verse 20

Colossians 2:11 In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verse 13.

Colossians 2:11 Or put off in the circumcision of

Colossians 2:13 Some manuscripts us

Colossians 2:15 Or them in him

Chapter 2 of Colossians begins with Paul expressing his concern for the Colossians and their spiritual well-being. He warns them about false teachers who may try to deceive them with persuasive arguments and human traditions, rather than the truth of Christ. Paul then goes on to emphasize the sufficiency of Christ for salvation and spiritual growth. He explains that in Christ, believers have been circumcised, not with physical circumcision, but with a circumcision of the heart, which is done by Christ through the removal of the sinful nature. He emphasizes that believers have been made complete in Christ and that they don't need to follow the teachings of human traditions or false philosophies.

Paul then reminds the Colossians of their spiritual transformation in Christ, emphasizing that they have been raised with him and that they have died to the old way of life. He encourages them to set their minds on things above, rather than on earthly things. Finally, Paul warns the Colossians against legalism and asceticism, which focus on self-denial and the worship of angels. He emphasizes that such practices have no value in restraining the sinful nature, and that they are not necessary for spiritual growth in Christ. In summary, chapter 2 of Colossians emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ for salvation and spiritual growth, and warns against false teachings and human traditions. Paul encourages the Colossians to set their minds on things above and to avoid legalism and asceticism. He emphasizes that believers have been made complete in Christ and don't need to follow human traditions or false philosophies.

Here are some important verses from chapter 2 of Colossians, along with a brief explanation and reference to where they can be found in the chapter:

1. "For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face" (Colossians 2:1).

This verse shows Paul's concern and care for the Colossian church, and his desire for them to grow in their faith.

2. "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him" (Colossians 2:6).

This verse emphasizes the importance of living a life of faith in Christ, not just receiving Him as Lord but also continuing to follow Him.

3. "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

This verse warns against false teachings and deceptive philosophies that are not grounded in Christ, and emphasizes the importance of remaining steadfast in the truth of the gospel.

4. "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness" (Colossians 2:9-10).

This verse emphasizes the fullness of God's presence in Christ, and the completeness and sufficiency that believers have in Him.

5. "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day" (Colossians 2:16).

This verse emphasizes the freedom that believers have in Christ, and the importance of not being bound by legalistic practices or human traditions.

You can find these verses in chapter 2 of Colossians in most Christian Bible translations.

Colossians chapter 2 in the New Testament continues to present important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian history. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Colossians chapter 2:

Warning Against False Teaching: In Colossians 2:4, Paul expresses concern about the Colossians being deceived by persuasive but false teachings. This serves as a theological warning about the importance of discerning and holding fast to true Christian doctrine, which has influenced discussions on theological discernment and doctrinal purity within the Christian tradition.

Fullness of Christ: Colossians 2:9-10 emphasizes that in Christ, "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily," and believers are "filled in him." This theological thought underscores the idea of completeness and sufficiency in Christ alone. It has influenced the Christian understanding of Christ as the source of spiritual fullness and the rejection of competing forms of spirituality or religious syncretism.

Freedom from Legalism: Colossians 2:16-23 addresses issues related to legalism, including dietary restrictions and observance of religious festivals. Paul argues that these are but shadows, and the substance is found in Christ. This theological thought has had a profound influence on Christian discussions about the relationship between law and grace, emphasizing that salvation comes through faith in Christ rather than through human works.

Victory Over Powers and Authorities: Colossians 2:15 speaks of Christ disarming the powers and authorities and triumphing over them through the cross. This theological thought has influenced discussions about the victory of Christ over spiritual forces and the concept of spiritual warfare in Christian theology.

Baptism: Colossians 2:12 discusses the significance of baptism, describing it as a burial with Christ and a resurrection to new life. This theological thought has influenced

Christian understanding of the sacrament of baptism and its role in the believer's identification with Christ's death and resurrection.

Theological Influence:

Colossians 2 has had a significant influence on discussions related to Christian doctrine and practice. It has played a role in shaping Christian views on the sufficiency of Christ for salvation, the rejection of legalistic practices, and the importance of discerning true doctrine from false teachings.

The warning against false teaching in Colossians 2:4 has contributed to discussions about theological discernment and the need for believers to be rooted in sound doctrine.

The emphasis on the fullness of Christ in Colossians 2:9-10 has influenced Christian theology's understanding of Christ's sufficiency and the rejection of religious syncretism.

Colossians 2 has also contributed to discussions on the role of baptism in the Christian faith and the symbolism of baptism as a believer's identification with Christ's death and resurrection.

In summary, Colossians chapter 2 addresses theological themes related to false teaching, the sufficiency of Christ, freedom from legalism, victory over spiritual forces, and the significance of baptism. Its theological influence can be seen in its contributions to Christian discussions on these topics.

Colossians 3

New International Version

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.[b] 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord

forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Instructions for Christian Households

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers,^[c] do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Footnotes

Colossians 3:4 Some manuscripts our

Colossians 3:6 Some early manuscripts coming on those who are disobedient

Colossians 3:21 Or Parents

Chapter 3 of Colossians begins with Paul encouraging the Colossians to focus on the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. He reminds them that their old life has been put to death, and that they have been raised with Christ. Therefore, they should set their hearts and minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Paul then goes on to give practical instructions for Christian living. He encourages the Colossians to put to death the sinful nature within them, and to rid themselves of things such as sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language. Instead, he urges them to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, and to bear with one another and forgive one another as Christ forgave them.

Paul also emphasizes the importance of unity in Christ, urging the Colossians to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and to be thankful. He encourages them to let the message of Christ dwell among them richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in their hearts to God.

Finally, Paul gives instructions for Christian households, encouraging wives to submit to their husbands, and husbands to love their wives and not be harsh with them. He also urges children to obey their parents in everything, and parents not to embitter their children.

In summary, chapter 3 of Colossians emphasizes the importance of focusing on things above and putting to death the sinful nature within us. Paul gives practical instructions for Christian living, emphasizing the importance of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and forgiveness. He also stresses the importance of unity in Christ and gives instructions for Christian households.

Here are some important verses from chapter 3 of Colossians, along with a brief explanation and reference to where they can be found in the chapter:

1. "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." (Colossians 3:1)

This verse emphasizes the importance of focusing on heavenly things and the eternal perspective, instead of being consumed by earthly concerns.

2. "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5)

This verse calls for believers to put off sinful behaviors and attitudes that belong to our old, earthly nature and instead live in obedience to Christ.

3. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

This verse reminds us of our identity as God's chosen and beloved people, and calls us to live out those characteristics that reflect His character in our interactions with others.

4. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

This verse reminds us to approach every aspect of our lives with a heart of gratitude and an attitude of obedience to Christ.

5. "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." (Colossians 3:16)

This verse highlights the importance of the gospel message and encourages believers to build one another up through teaching and singing together as a community of faith.

Colossians chapter 3 in the New Testament continues to present important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian history. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Colossians chapter 3:

The Call to Set the Mind on Things Above: Colossians 3:1-2 begins with the exhortation to set one's mind on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. This theological thought emphasizes the idea that Christians should prioritize heavenly and spiritual things over earthly concerns. It has influenced Christian teachings on the believer's focus on eternal values and the need to detach from worldly distractions.

Putting Off the Old Self and Putting On the New Self: Colossians 3:5-10 discusses the process of putting off the old self with its sinful practices and putting on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. This theological thought highlights the concept of sanctification, where believers are transformed into the likeness of Christ and strive to live in holiness. It has influenced Christian discussions on the process of moral and spiritual growth.

Unity and Love: Colossians 3:12-14 instructs believers to put on virtues such as compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love. These qualities are essential for maintaining unity within the body of Christ. The theological thought here emphasizes the importance of love and unity among believers, which has been influential in Christian ethics and teachings on community and fellowship.

Thankfulness: Colossians 3:15 encourages believers to be thankful, and this theme of gratitude is interwoven throughout the chapter. Theological thought on gratitude and thanksgiving has influenced Christian worship and the understanding of a grateful heart as a response to God's grace.

Submission in Relationships: Colossians 3:18-4:1 addresses various relationships, including those in the family and workplace, emphasizing mutual submission and respect. This theological thought has influenced Christian discussions on the ethics of relationships, including marriage and work, within the context of faith.

Theological Influence:

Colossians 3 has had a significant influence on Christian ethics and the practical application of faith in daily life. Its emphasis on setting one's mind on heavenly things, putting off the old self, and putting on the new self has shaped Christian teachings on sanctification and moral transformation.

The call to love and maintain unity in the body of Christ has influenced Christian teachings on the importance of love, community, and fellowship within the church.

The theme of gratitude in Colossians 3 has contributed to Christian practices of thanksgiving and worship.

The instructions regarding submission in various relationships have been influential in discussions about Christian ethics and conduct in family and workplace settings.

In summary, Colossians chapter 3 addresses theological themes related to the believer's mindset, sanctification, love, gratitude, and ethical behavior within various relationships. Its theological influence can be seen in its impact on Christian ethics, spirituality, and practical Christian living.

Colossians 4
New International Version

4 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Further Instructions

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Final Greetings

7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant^[a] in the Lord. 8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our^[b] circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) 11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews^[c] among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. 13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

16 After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

17 Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”

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

Footnotes

Colossians 4:7 Or slave; also in verse 12

Colossians 4:8 Some manuscripts that he may know about your

Colossians 4:11 Greek only ones of the circumcision group

Chapter 4 of Colossians begins with Paul encouraging the Colossians to continue in prayer, asking them to pray specifically for him and his ministry. He asks them to pray that God would open doors for him to share the gospel, and that he would be able to proclaim the message of Christ clearly.

Paul then goes on to give instructions for how the Colossians should conduct themselves toward outsiders. He urges them to be wise in how they act toward those who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity to share the gospel. He encourages them to be gracious in their speech, so that they may know how to answer everyone.

Paul then sends greetings to several individuals who are with him, including Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus. He encourages the Colossians to welcome these individuals and to support them in their ministry.

Finally, Paul ends his letter with some personal greetings and instructions. He urges the Colossians to pass on his greetings to the Laodiceans, and to read his letter to them as well. He also sends greetings from Luke, and encourages the Colossians to greet one another with a holy kiss.

In summary, chapter 4 of Colossians emphasizes the importance of prayer and sharing the gospel with outsiders. Paul gives instructions for how the Colossians should conduct themselves toward non-believers, urging them to be gracious in their speech and to make the most of every opportunity. He also sends greetings to several individuals and urges the Colossians to support them in their ministry. Finally, Paul ends his letter with personal greetings and instructions.

Here are some important verses from chapter 4 of Colossians, along with a brief explanation and reference to where they can be found in the chapter:

1. "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." (Colossians 4:2)

This verse encourages believers to make prayer a priority in their lives, being alert and grateful as they come before God.

2. "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:5-6)

These verses urge believers to live in a way that reflects the wisdom and grace of Christ, making the most of every opportunity to share the gospel with those who do not yet know Him.

3. "Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured." (Colossians 4:12)

This verse highlights the importance of intercessory prayer and reminds believers that they have a responsibility to pray for one another, as Epaphras did for the Colossians.

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

This final verse serves as a personal greeting from Paul to the Colossian church, reminding them of his imprisonment and asking for God's grace to be with them.

Colossians chapter 4 is the final chapter of the epistle, and while it contains fewer theological expositions compared to earlier chapters, it still offers some valuable theological thoughts and practical instructions for Christian living. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Colossians chapter 4:

Prayer and Watchfulness: Colossians 4:2 encourages believers to devote themselves to prayer and be watchful with thanksgiving. This underscores the importance of prayer in

the Christian life and the need for vigilance in spiritual matters. The emphasis on thanksgiving reflects the idea of gratitude as an integral part of the believer's prayer life.

Proclamation of the Gospel: In Colossians 4:3-4, Paul requests prayer for the proclamation of the gospel, asking that God may open a door for the message to be declared clearly. This theological thought emphasizes the mission of spreading the gospel and the importance of prayer in supporting missionary efforts. It has influenced Christian missions and evangelism.

Wisdom in Speech: Colossians 4:5-6 encourages believers to conduct themselves wisely toward outsiders and let their speech always be gracious and seasoned with salt. This theological thought underscores the need for Christians to represent Christ effectively in their interactions with non-believers. It has influenced discussions on Christian witness and evangelism.

Fellowship and Encouragement: Throughout Colossians 4, Paul mentions various individuals who are with him or sending greetings. This highlights the sense of Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement among believers. The theological thought here underscores the importance of community and support within the body of Christ.

Theological Influence:

Colossians 4 has influenced Christian practices related to prayer and thanksgiving. The call to be devoted to prayer and watchful with thanksgiving has been a guiding principle for Christian prayer life.

The emphasis on the proclamation of the gospel and the need for prayer to open doors for evangelism has had a significant impact on Christian missionary efforts and the understanding of the role of prayer in spreading the gospel.

The exhortation to use gracious and seasoned speech when interacting with outsiders has influenced Christian discussions on apologetics and how believers engage with non-believers in a winsome and respectful manner.

The mention of various individuals and greetings in Colossians 4 reflects the importance of Christian fellowship and mutual support within the faith community. This has influenced the practice of maintaining connections and offering encouragement among believers.

In summary, Colossians chapter 4 contains theological thoughts related to prayer, the proclamation of the gospel, wise speech, and Christian fellowship. Its theological influence can be seen in the guidance it provides for Christian prayer life, missions and evangelism, apologetics, and the importance of Christian community and mutual support.

Notes:

There are questions in the book of Colossians that have no answer. However, there are some passages in the book of Colossians that may be challenging to interpret or understand. Here are a few examples:

1. Colossians 1:15-20 - This passage is known as the Christ hymn and describes the supremacy of Christ over all things. The passage can be difficult to interpret, especially in terms of the relationship between Christ and God the Father.
2. Colossians 2:16-23 - This passage discusses various Jewish practices, such as Sabbath-keeping and dietary restrictions, and how they relate to Christian faith. The passage can be challenging to understand, especially in terms of how these practices should be viewed by Christians today.
3. Colossians 3:5-11 - This passage lists various sins and vices that Christians are instructed to avoid, such as sexual immorality, greed, and anger. However, the passage can be challenging to interpret in terms of how Christians should respond to these sins and whether they should be punished or forgiven.

While there may not be clear-cut answers to these questions, Christians can seek to understand these passages through study and interpretation, as well as through prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit. Additionally, scholars and theologians may offer various perspectives and insights on these passages, which can be helpful in understanding their meaning and application.