

Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians—Lesson 22

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

*Epaphras, who is one of your number, a slave of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.
--Colossians 4:12-15*

Day 1—Verse 12

Epaphras, who is one of your number, a slave of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God --Colossians 4:12

1. Who was Epaphras? (See also Col. 1:6-7, 4:12-13, Philemon 23.)
2. Epaphras was probably the founder and pastor of the Colossian church. How might a greeting from him have been very encouraging to them?
3. Define striving (agōnizomai). Note: äg-ō-NEED-zo-my
4. What English word do you see in agōnizomai? Does that help you to understand the urgency with which Epaphras prayed for them?

- a. Using Scripture, who else do you see in God's Word agonizing in prayer?
 - b. How does this help you understand the role of your Shepherds towards you?
5. How would the threat of false doctrine affect Epaphras' prayer for the Colossians?
- a. Paul tells us in Acts 20:29 that savage wolves would enter into the church, not sparing the flock. How can the thought of this help you to strive more faithfully in praying for GLC? What things should you be praying for in regard to the health of the church?
6. What does Epaphras pray for on behalf of the Colossians?
7. According to this verse, how was Epaphras an example of the command given in verse two?

Heart Check

- Is there anyone in your life whom the Lord is calling you to strive and agonize in prayer for?

Day 2—Verse 12

Epaphras, who is one of your number, a slave of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings, always striving for you in his prayers, that you may stand complete and fully assured in all the will of God --Colossians 4:12

1. Define the word complete (teleios).
2. Define fully assured (plerophoreo).
3. What does it look like for a Christian to be complete in Christ?
4. How can we be fully assured in all the will of God?

5. As a reminder from past lessons, according to these verses, what is the will of God for believers?
- a. Micah 6:8

 - b. Ephesians 5:15-17

 - c. Philippians 2:13

 - d. 1 Thessalonians 4 :3

 - e. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

 - f. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

 - g. James 1:5

 - h. James 4:13-15

 - i. 1 John 5:14-15
6. How can failing to see how we are complete and fully assured in the will of God affect our gospel ministry?

Heart Check:

- Are you fully assured of your faith? What things may you be basing your salvation or assurance on other than Christ and His finished work?

- Do you lack action because you don't see yourself as complete in Christ? What are you looking to for completion besides Christ in your life?

5. Where were Laodicea and Hierapolis?

6. Why would Epaphras have a deep concern for them too?

7. What does the breadth of Epaphras' ministry tell you about his love for Christ and his love of the gospel?

8. Do you have a deep concern for and regularly pray for the people of God?

Heart Check:

- How faithful are you in praying for local churches? What can you do to be more faithful in praying for them?

Day 4—Verse 14

Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas. --Colossians 4:14

1. Which books of the Bible did Luke write?
 - a. What does Luke 1:1-4 tell us about Luke's character?

2. Luke was a Gentile and possibly had been a slave. What does this tell us about how God chooses and uses believers in His kingdom?

3. Who was Demas? (See Philemon 24, 2 Tim. 4:9-10)

4. Why did Demas abandon the ministry according to 2 Tim. 4:10 and 1 John 2:19?

5. Is past service to God ever a guarantee of future faithfulness?

6. There have been a number of high-profile deconversion stories in evangelicalism over the last few years. What connection might we draw between those stories and the example of Demas?

a. According to 1 John 2:15-16, what is the love of the world?

7. What are things that we can do to make sure we do not follow in Demas' example?

Heart Check:

- Have you ever experienced the kind of rejection Paul did with Demas? How can a view of God's sovereignty help you through it?
- Are you diligently watching over your heart? What do you love in this life that could be a cause for stumbling? What must you do to be watchful?

- c. What is the result of God's discipline in the life of a believer?

 - d. Are you eager to receive the discipline of God?
5. The body of Christ is made up of all the believers and all the churches around the world. How important is it that churches support and encourage one another?
6. Nympha was probably a single woman. Read 1 Cor. 7:32-34. What is one of the benefits of being single?
7. What are the kinds of tasks Nympha would have had to carry out in service to her church, while they met in her home?
8. How can Nympha's life be an encouragement to you if you are single?

Heart Check:

- If you are single, are you content with where the Lord has you? Are you faithfully using your undivided time to serve the church?
- If you are married, do you feed discontentment in the heart of a woman who is single or do you encourage her in this special time she has to work for the Lord?
- Married or single, are you hospitable to the body at GLC?

Dig Deeper:

Listen to Susan Heck on this lesson:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIOlee0jPxA&list=PL5ro7rVd6l-tEoo9pWVJ7QKz3jTanWaBo&index=22>