

Colossians 4:1-4 **Continue in Prayer**

1. Holding to the Head • Colossians 3:17 - 4:1 (Review)

- a. "Ye serve the Lord Christ." We are free and at liberty in Christ, yet we should serve Him. (Gal 5:1, 2 Cor 5:17)
- b. What kind of service are you doing? (1 Cor 3:13-16)
- c. Good service = good reward. (Eph 6:5-8)
- d. We apply the doctrine of the mystery of Jesus Christ, God's abundant grace, to every relationship.
- e. We will each stand before the Lord in judgement to answer for what we have done. (Rom 14:12).
- f. There is no respect of persons. This is always the case, and was even in the law. Whether high or low all will be judged. (Deuteronomy 1:17, Prov 24:23)

2. Continue in prayer • Colossians 4:2

- a. Paul prays for the Colossians in chapter 1. He expresses:
 - i. Thankfulness for the work God has done in them, and for their service (Col 1:3)
 - ii. Desire they be filled with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom regarding the word of God. (Col 1:9)
 - iii. To the end they may walk worthy of their heavenly vocation/calling. (Col 1:10, Eph 4:1)
- b. This is a common pattern exhibited by the apostle of the Gentiles, and we are exhorted to likewise pray for one another. (Eph 1:15-17, Eph 6:18)
- c. Your growth is not just about learning sound doctrine, though that is key. Prayer keeps the renewed mind (the mind of Christ) and keeps you in continual acknowledgement of the mystery of Christ. (Phil 4:6-7, Col 2:2-3)
- d. We are not praying in accordance with a covenant today.
- e. We must learn what God's will is (from scripture), and carry it out on the spiritual battlefield. (Eph 5:15-17)
- f. Prayer primarily changes your heart and motivates you to action/service to the Lord. His grace is all that you need, he has given you everything you need for the strengthening of your inner man. (2 Cor 12:7-10, Eph 3:14-19, 2 Cor 4:16)

3. Prayer to speak • Colossians 4:3-4

- a. Prayer for all, that we may live quiet and peaceable lives. Why? To minister the fellowship of the mystery (carry out the will of God). (Eph 6:19-20, 1 Tim 2:1-4, Col 1:26)
- b. Being at war in the physical realm does not make for an open door. Likewise, unreasonable and wicked men will not hear. (2 Thess 3:2-3)
- c. Open doors are opportunities to speak the gospel of the grace of God and have some individuals listen. (1 Cor 16:9)
- d. We are all ministers of reconciliation, preach the gospel. (2 Cor 5:18, 2 Tim 1:6-9)
- e. Not everyone wants to hear it, find more who do. (2 Tim 4:2-3)