

## "And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity" COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

# **COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1**

- These verses serve as the practical application:
- Marriage
- Family
- Employment, whether fair or not (1 Peter 2:18ff)
- Notice the way the apostle doesn't build walls of separation between family life, public life, and church life. While there are certainly things that need to stay in their context, these main areas of life are all connected by our devotion to God.

### **COLOSSIANS 4:2-6**

- "Devotion" may not be the first word that comes to your mind when describing your prayer life.
- Notice the connection between prayer and alertness elsewhere (Neh. 4:9, Matt. 26:41).
- Prayer facilitates evangelism, which must come with some follow-through (what we say, how we act, especially since we never know when the opportunity may come).

### **COLOSSIANS 4:7-9**

- The idea of information being passed around from Christian to Christian is a prominent feature of these verses. Remember, however, that the same voices that carry good news can also be used for evil (James 3:8ff).
- News about Christians in other locations brings warmth and encouragement. Do not waste the opportunities before you (contacting missionaries, keeping up with faraway Christians, etc.).

### **COLOSSIANS 4:10-18**

- It is encouraging that Paul and Barnabas never allowed their disagreement in Acts 15 to be a permanent hindrance. Paul warmly commends Mark to the Colossians.
- There is proof that the Judaizing teachers didn't represent every Jewish convert.
- Epaphras proved that he was totally committed to his fellow saints.
- The letter coming from Laodicea should cause no concern. Simple explanation.