

Study 11

COLOSSIANS 4:1-18

WORK DIFFERENTLY

Work comes in many forms. It can involve manual effort, or intellectual exertion, or spiritual discipline, or the practice of social science. The Gospel transforms how the Christian views their work as something they offer to God as their worship. In this sense, the Christian views *work* differently.

1. Paul links theology to how we should behave and treat each other. What theological reason does Paul give for how employers should treat their employees — and describe what this should look like? (Col. 4:1)
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Is praying ‘work’?

2. How does Paul instruct believers to pray in Colossians 4:2?
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3. Reading Colossians 4:3-4, how does this reveal *who* Paul wanted to be prayed for in the previous verse? If you were instructed to *apply* Colossians 4:3-4, *who* would you for, and *what* would you pray for them?
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4. What would the lifestyle difference between a believer who obeyed Colossians 4:5 and a believer who didn’t?
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In the movie, *A Beautiful Day in The Neighborhood*, based on the true story surrounding the 1998 *Esquire* Magazine article, 'Who Can Say ... Hero?', a journalist, Lloyd Vogel, is assigned to interview the famous children's TV entertainer, *Fred Rogers*. Vogel was a deeply hurt man with a toxic relationship with his estranged father. When he sets out to interview Mr. Rogers, who is about the same age as Vogel's father, he is determined to expose him as someone other than the man behind the nice-guy persona. But, as he gets to know Mr. Rogers, he is struck by the kindness and sensitivity of a very genuine man of God who never seems to get flustered and never speaks a word in anger.

5. Why do you think that some Christians have such a difficult time in applying Colossians 4:6?
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Paul was not only *writing* to the Colossians, he was sending *someone* to the Colossians as well - *Tychicus* (Col. 4:7-8). It seems that Tychicus was well known to the Colossians by the way Paul describes him. But Tychicus was not the only person that Paul was sending.

6. Read Colossians 4:9 and then Philemon 8-12. It seems that Onesimus was a Colossian. What do we know about him based on the context of these two references? Why might this have been a courageous step by the Apostle Paul?
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As we read through Colossians 4:10-18, we witness Paul's immediate legacy and his father's heart for others. This was how he worked differently.

7. What can we learn from Paul's affirmation of these very different people for how we might be able to leave a legacy?
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Amen.