

/Hello./ At this time, we will begin the seventeenth lecture on the prison epistles./ The main passages today is Colossians chapter 4./ The title of this chapter is "Prayer."

/First, instructions to masters. Verse 1./ Second, prayer and evangelization. Verses 2-6./ Third, the sending of two people. Verses 7-9./ Fourth, introduction, greetings, and a favor. Verses 10-18.

/Read verse 1./ Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

/The first point is instructions to masters./ It says, "Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair,/ because you know that you also have a Master in heaven."/ Even though a person is a master, he must not do what is offensive in the eyes of God.

/Proverbs 21:2./ All a man's ways seem right to him,/ but the LORD weighs the heart./ Our ways may seem right when we look at ourselves but God weighs our hearts.

/Masters must provide his slaves with what is right and fair./ Also, they must understand the circumstances of the slaves./ They must realize that they would one day be judged by God, and therefore, they must act in fairness.

/If a slave sees that a master is not fair,/ he can make personal suggestions to his master with faithfulness./ However, they must leave the results to God.

/King Saul tried to kill David several times./ David suffered while he escaped from the hands of Saul./ However, there were many opportunities for David to kill Saul.

/However, David refused to kill Saul./ He handed everything to God./ Because he knew that Saul was anointed by God as king, he handed everything over to God./ The Bible tells us that all authority is from God.

/If a master and his slaves fight, both will be destroyed./ Even though slaves may seem incompetent in the eyes of a master, he must be patient./ He must confront them with love and properly lead the slaves.

/If he does so, the slaves will one day change./ When parents raise their children,/ they may sometimes not like how their children act,/ but when they properly lead their children with love, their children will grow up properly.

/Masters must also know that there is God in heaven, and provide their slaves with what is right and fair.

/The second point. Prayer and evangelization. Verses 2-6.

/Verse 2./ Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

/It says, devote yourselves to prayer,/ being watchful and thankful./ We must put prayer as first priority./ Prayer is most important because it is a time to talk to God and communicate with him.

/When the Israelites were at war with the Amalekites, Moses went up to the mountain to pray to God./ The power of prayer empowered Joshua, who was leading the Israelites in the battle.

/When Moses' hands became tired and began to fall, the Israelites began to lose./ However, when Moses prayed with his hands raised, the Israelites began to win the battle./ In the same way, believers will receive the power of God when they pray to him.

/Without prayer, we cannot accomplish the spiritual tasks./ Even Jesus said, "This kind can come out only by prayer."/ Satan tries to take away our prayer time.

/When our prayer time is taken away, our faith is taken away as well./ Then our power is taken away./ Our diligence is taken away./ Our love of Jesus decreases./ If these things happen, we can no longer practice our faith.

/We cannot overcome Satan if we do not pray./ We must pray every day./ It is best for us to set a prayer time in the early mornings.

/Mark 1:35./ It says that Jesus went to a solitary place in a very early morning./ Luke 22:39./ Jesus prayed on the Mount Olives as He always did.

/Jesus, who was God, practiced a life of prayer, and we must imitate Him./ Praying in the early morning is the best time for prayer./ We must habitually pray to God.

/When we do so, we will then receive the grace of God and his power./ Also, it says that we must devote ourselves to prayer by being watchful and thankful./ First, we must thank God for his grace.

/We must pray with thankfulness with faith that God will continue to give us the best things./ It also says that we must pray by being watchful.

/This means that we must pray in spirit through the power of the Holy Spirit./ We must pray through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the truth.

/Verse 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.

/It says, pray for us, too./ "Us" refers to Paul and other pastors./ Believers must cooperate with their pastors by praying for them.

/Here, the prayer request is this: "that God may open a door for our message."/ We must pray that pastors would properly preach God's Word.

/When believers pray for pastors, pastors can courageously share the gospel./ Pastors are a spiritual vessel of life between God and believers.

/There is a golden pipe between the olive tree and the lampstand, and the oil passes through the pipe./ Pastors are like a golden pipe./ The oil of the grace of God is given to believers through pastors.

/If the pipe is blocked, they cannot receive grace and oil./ Therefore, believers must always pray for pastors, cooperate with them, and receive the grace of God.

/Then God will pour out his grace on pastors so that they could properly preach God's Word./ If pastors work alone, they may become exhausted and fatigued.

/Moses' hands came down because he was tired./ However, Aaron and Hur held Moses' hands on each side, and Moses' hands did not come down until the war was over.

/They cooperated with and helped Moses./ Through their cooperation, the Israelites won the war./ Some people dangle on the arms of pastors./ When the pastor is tired because he works for God, some people make him more tired.

/Unlike them, we must cooperate with and uphold our pastors' arms./ However, there are people who pull down his arms.

/If that's the case, we cannot triumph over the Amalekites./ Therefore, we must help pastors./ Here, Paul writes to the church of Colossi to pray for him and the pastors./ There are a few ways on how believers can help pastors.

/First, we can pray for them./ We can help our pastors by praying for them./ Second, we can serve pastors in various ways./ Third, we can help with materials.

/Fourth, we can be criticized in their place./ When a believer creates a problem with the pastor, we must help the pastor and solve the problem by being criticized instead.

/There may be people who rebuke and slander pastors./ We can help out by taking their places./ Fifth, we can help pastors by/ covering up his flaws.

/Because pastors are humans, they can commit mistakes./ For example, Noah fell asleep naked./ Ham saw it and told his brothers./ Shem and Japheth covered their father's mistake by not looking at him and walking backwards.

/As a result, Ham was cursed./ Shem and Japheth were blessed./ Even though Ham told the truth,/ he was cursed.

/At that time, Noah was a prophet used by God./ If someone exposes a prophet's mistakes, it damages the salvation movement./ The same goes for us today.

/Shem and Japheth covered their father's mistakes, and the salvation movement of God was not affected, and thus they were blessed.

/It is correct for us to cover other's mistakes if it damages the salvation movement and the church./ It also says, "so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ."

/This refers to the gospel./ Paul wrote that he was chained, and that means he was imprisoned at the time.

/Verse 4./ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

/When believers passionately pray for their pastors, the pastors can share the gospel with boldness.

/When we look at the reviving churches where pastors boldly share God's Word, we can see that there are many believers who pray for the pastors./ If believers pray a lot, the church will revive and the believers will receive God's grace.

/Verse 5./ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

/It says, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."/ "Outsiders" refer to unbelievers./ Paul tells us to be wise in the way we act toward outsiders, and make the most of every opportunity./ We must not waste time.

/We are wasting time, unless we use it wisely and do the works of God./ If we associate with unbelievers without sharing the gospel to them and waste time, our faith will not grow.

/Thus, it means that believers must be wise and use time wisely to live out their faith.

/Verse 6./ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

/It says that when believers converse with others, they must always be full of grace, seasoned with salt./ There is a saying that one word can remove a huge debt.

/We can show grace or put a person to a test based on the way we talk./ Believers must always speak gracefully./ Here, it says, "salt."/ Salt is tasteful when it is melted.

/The saltiness of salt can be tasted./ It can do its job when it's melted./ In the same way, if salt stays in its form to show off how it looks, it cannot be tasted.

/The meaning of salt melting is to sacrifice./ We must always sacrifice ourselves wherever we are./ We must melt./ When that happens, we will be able to show our taste even if we are no longer seen.

/Also, we use salt to preserve fish/ and to keep it from being spoiled./ Also, everyone needs salt./ Whether a person is rich or poor,/ or a king or a beggar,/ everyone becomes healthy through salt.

/However, salt is not treated well./ No one puts a bag of salt in the living room or under a pillow./ It is stored in a storage or in the corner of a room.

/Believers are not treated well in this world./ No one recognizes them./ However, salt is needed./ Salt can bring out flavor/ or prevent food from being spoiled./ Also, salt is used to make cabbages soft when making kimchi.

/In the book of Matthew, Jesus said that we are the salt of this world./ We must live a life of sacrifice,/ tastefulness,/ preservation,/ and just as salt is used to soften food, we must live harmoniously with our neighbors.

/In verse 6, it says that our conversation must always be full of grace, seasoned with salt.

/We believers must first live in grace./ We must live in truth and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit./ Everything we say must be graceful and good.

/Then there will be harmony./ We must obey the Word of truth through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and practice our faith, and speak gracefully with others.

/There are certain people who always quarrel with others./ That is not graceful./ That is to be in disharmony with others./ They must stop such behavior.

/We must always speak in faith/ and grace./ Everything we say to others must be full of grace and goodness./ It must be peaceful and beneficial.

/Then we believers can be one and glorify and praise God./ We must always practice faith to speak gracefully in the midst of God's grace.

/Everything we say must be good and graceful to others./ Then believers must have fellowship in grace and be helpful to each other./ Then in doing so, God will be glorified and praised.

/Today, on the way to record lectures, I heard worship in the church./ Some of the workers gathered in the morning to worship God./ When I heard their praises, my heart was at peace.

/The workers and believers in the church must converse gracefully./ Also, we must carefully choose the words we say.

/This means that we must not only praise God with our lips, but with our lives./ Then it says that the Holy Spirit will give us the answers.

/Now, let's discuss the third point. The sending of two people. Verses 7-9.

/Verse 7./ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.

/Here, Paul sends Tychicus to the church of Colosse./ In verse 9, he says "He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you."/ Tychicus was sent to the church of Colossi with Onesimus.

/Paul sent this letter through them./ It says, "Tychicus will tell you all the news about me."/ This was to comfort the hearts of the believers.

/It also says, "He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord."/ We can see that Paul always used faithful people./ The same goes for pastors./ They always use faithful people.

/If a believer is not faithful, he can be used by Satan and fail./ Therefore, believers must be faithful and truthful./ They must do everything by faith./ Then, believers can defeat all schemes of the devil.

/It says that Tychicus is a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord./ He was a servant who helped Paul in many ways.

/Verse 8./ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.

/The purpose of their trip was to let the believers of Colosse hear news about Paul, who was imprisoned./ Paul was currently imprisoned in Rome./ Hence, the believers of Colosse were worried about Paul.

/That is why two people were sent to comfort the heart of the believers./ Paul thought of the believers before he thought of himself, comforted them, and wanted to put their hearts at peace.

/In verse 9, Paul writes that he also sent Onesimus./ Onesimus was from Colosse./ He was Philemon's servant./ Philemon 1:10./ He was a servant in the house of Philemon.

/Onesimus ran after he stole from Philemon./ He also committed another crime in Rome, which caused him to end up in a Roman prison.

/He met Paul in prison and met Jesus Christ./ Onesimus became a faithful person after believing in Jesus./ He became a great help to Paul because of his devotion.

/Paul sent Onesimus back to Colossi, and introduced him./ He did not consider Onesimus a criminal.

/Paul introduced Onesimus as a faithful believer of Jesus Christ/ and a dear brother.

/There are people who are a great help to the church/ even though they damaged the church and hurt believers in the past./ There are cases in which they are precious used to spread the gospel.

/There was a pastor who was a gangster in the past.

/Even though he was a gangster, after he became a pastor, a lot of people believed in Jesus because of his testimony./ Therefore, we must not condemn others because of their past.

/In the past, Onesimus stole from Philemon./ Then he escaped from his master even though he was a servant./ He was then imprisoned in Rome because of another crime he committed.

/Even though he was a criminal, he became a great help to Paul after he repented./ He was used to share the gospel./ He became a valuable instrument that God used.

/The fourth point. Introduction, greetings, and a favor. Verses 10-18.

/Verse 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.)

/Here, Paul says, "My fellow prisoner Aristarchus."/ "Aristarchus" was from Thessalonica./ Acts 20:4./ He accompanied Paul in a trip to Jerusalem.

/This Aristarchus is imprisoned in Rome with Paul./ Next, Mark, the cousin of Barnabas appears in the letter./ Before, he was useless in the eyes of Paul.

/However, he was now useful./ Mark was with Paul/ on his first mission trip./ However, Mark found the trip difficult and left Pamphylia./ Acts 13:14.

/Then Paul left on his second mission trip./ Barnabas was a cousin of Mark, and he said to Paul, “Let’s bring Mark.”/ However, Paul denied his request because Mark ran away during the first trip.

/Barnabas and Paul had a serious argument because of Mark./ Then the two men split ways./ This is recorded from Acts 15:37.

/Mark brought damages for Paul,/ but was now being introduced as useful./ 2 Timothy 4:11./ Even though Mark brought damages in the past, he became a useful person after repenting.

/Therefore, Paul urged the church of Colossi to accept him./ It was a request to accept those who repented and believed in Jesus, even if they once brought harm to the church.

/Verse 11./ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me.

/It says, “Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. There are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God.”/ The circumcised once rejected Paul./ They rejected his teachings because they did not know the gospel that Paul shared.

/However, Justus later accepted the gospel and became a faithful helper to Paul./ This was a great comfort to Paul.

/A person who rejected pastors repented and believed in Jesus and helped pastors, and it became a great comfort for Paul.

/Thus, if we do not exclude and condemn unbelievers, but instead pray for them by thinking of the gospel, God will surely change them.

/In verse 12, Epaphras appears.

/Verse 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.

/“Epaphras” was a believer at Colosse./ He visited Paul who was imprisoned in Rome./ He also taught the believers of Colossi.

/When he was in Rome, he always prayed for the church./ He prayed that the believers of Colosse would firmly stand on the truth.

/Verse 13./ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

/Paul tried to inform the believers of Colosse that Epaphras worked hard for the church./ He truly worked hard for the church.

/It is good for us to acknowledge those who work hard in the church./ Epaphras worked hard and helped Paul while he was in prison.

/We must also acknowledge those who work hard for the church and for pastors.

/Verse 14./ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

/Here, Paul introduced Luke, who was a doctor./ He also accepted and helped Paul./ He wrote the gospel of Luke./ 2 Timothy 4:11./ It says, "Only Luke is with me."

/He faithfully helped until Paul was martyred for the gospel./ It says in verse 14, "Demas send greetings."/ "Demas" was a faithful worker who helped Paul.

/However, his faith later became weak and he ran away to Thessalonica, leaving Paul behind./ 2 Timothy 4:10./ Paul wrote that "Demas send greetings" because Demas had not run away yet.

/Verse 15./ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

/Paul urged the believers of Colosse to greet to the brothers at Laodicea, which was located near Colosse./ He said, "and to Nympha and the church in her house."/ In the times of the early church, believers gathered in homes.

/Verse 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.

/Paul further says to let the Laodiceans read this letter as well./ Our church must read and learn from the Bible./ We must share it with other members of the church.

/Verse 17./ Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

/"Archippus" here was Philemon's son who he became a pastor./ It also says, "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."/ We must carefully fulfill our calling by acknowledging that our duties were given to us from God.

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

/Because Paul could not see well, he greeted people in his own hand, just as we sign at the end of our letters today.

/Paul also wrote, "Remember my chains."/ This was to remind believers that he was suffering for the gospel.

/Even if we face sufferings, we must be faithful until the end./ No matter what sufferings we face, we must triumph with faith by cooperating with other believers.

/Lastly, Paul blessed the people by praying, "Grace be with you."

/We must be victorious believers who faithfully triumph through God's grace.

/Here we will conclude the seventeenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you.