**Homework Colossians Week 4: Colossians 4:2-4:18**

Read Colossians 1:7-8, Philemon 23, and Colossians 4:12-13. Write down what you learn about Paul’s contemporary, Epaphras. Now read Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24, and 2 Timothy 4:10. Write down what you learn about Demas. Colossians and Philemon were both written between 60-62 A.D. While 2 Timothy was written around 67 A.D. What happened to the faith of Demas during those 5 years according to Paul?

Read 1 John 5:14-15. What do these verses say are necessary for God to hear our prayers? How does God respond to the prayers that He hears?

Words have power. Read James 3:1-12. Now read Colossians 3:12 again. Given what James says about the tongue and our speech and what Paul says about the heart, what do you need to do to gain power over your tongue? What are you going to start doing to gain power over your tongue?

In Colossians 4:2 Paul writes: “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving…”. How can you refine your prayer life given this instruction? What steps will you take to refine your prayer life?

Warren Wiersbe refers to Epaphras as “The Man Who Prayed” in his commentary, Be Complete. Wiersbe lists 5 traits of the pray life of Epaphras. Next to each trait rate your own prayer life in that area. Be honest. Then write a strategy you are going to employ to improve each area.

1. He prayed constantly
2. He prayed fervently
3. He prayed personally
4. He prayed specifically
5. He prayed sacrificially