

## THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Guaranteed Satisfaction

Colossians 4:18

### Consider This

1. Every jot and tittle of the Bible is inerrantly inspired by God the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20, 21). The Scriptures may be totally trusted, even in this age of disorderly unbelief.
2. The list of 10 men who were partners with the Apostle Paul (vv. 7-17) provide an imposing list of Godly fellows in the gospel. Their commitment to Paul and Colossians is patently presented.
3. Now comes the final verse of the Book. While it is succinct, it is filled with instruction about Paul and his burden for those whom he had never seen (Col. 2:1). Observe what this one cameo extrapolates about Paul and his closing counsel to the Colossians. There is guaranteed satisfaction.

1. By PAUL -- the Writer ("The hand of me Paul")  
    "The man with a pen" (hand)

- a. His conversion

This is neatly provided in three chapters (Acts 9:22, 26). The intervention of God in the life of Paul is carefully outlined. His testimony to a genuine conversion experience is fully outlined. God arrests Paul!

- b. His confession Phil. 3:1-14

As a Pharisee, Paul had enormous punctiliousness toward God. But this did not save his wretched soul. Ultimately he found all in Christ Jesus as his Lord. He never ceased to grasp that for which God had grasped him. The process of growth never stopped for him.

- c. His commission Acts 26:13-20

Paul was called to preach among the Gentiles (v. 17). They were to be told how they could receive forgiveness of sins and be sanctified by faith (v. 18). God confirmed his call to the Gentiles (Gal. 2).

- d. His communication 2 Thess. 3:17

The "hand" of "me Paul" shows that for this letter he did not have a secretary (cf. Ro. 16:22). That Paul may have had ophthalmic problems has been generally accepted (Gal. 6:11). Notwithstanding, he literally wrote Colossians, but not without the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13).

2. By PAUL -- the Prisoner ("Remember my Bonds")  
    "The Man with a chain" (feet)

- a. The Plea

The present tense imperative commands the Colossians to never forget His incarceration. Too often the faculty of memory is faulty! A list of Paul's major problems, including prison, is given in Scripture (2 Cor. 11:21). Paul's word here is very urgent.

- b. The Place

Three prison experiences are delineated in the word: 1) Philippi (Acts 16), Caesarea (Acts 24:27). 3) Rome (Acts 28:30). It is believed Paul had two Roman prison experiences. The last of which ended in death.

3. By PAUL -- the Commender ("Grace be with you")  
    "The Man with a petition" (heart)

The original text omits a verb in this phrase and is a short form found only here, 1 Tim. 6:21; 2 Tim. 4:22, but the grace of God is Paul's word to the Colossians. He did not forget that grace 1) saved him and grace 2) enabled him (1 Cor. 15:10). Peter refers to the "manifold grace of God" (1 Pet. 4:10) and to the "God of all (singular) grace" (1 Pet. 5:10). Paul noted that "my grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Cor. 12:9). Paul's commendation that grace is sufficient for manifold needs is clearly seen in a variety of situations in this epistle. Take these as examples:

- a. For progression in the Christian life. Col. 2:6

Only God's grace which has been "received" (aorist) will enable a believer to "walk" (present) in Him. His grace is sufficient to save and efficient to live. Praise God.

- b. For protection against false teaching. Col. 2:8

Only God's grace will protect a believer from what is deceitful and not "after Christ." Christ is our standard. Any deviation from Him is obvious error and to be shunned. God's grace is sufficient to keep you from being taken captive ("spoil").

- c. For promotion of church relations. Col. 3:18-4:1

From the basic family unit to servants and masters, it is God's grace that must prevail (cf. Eph. 5:18). It is God's grace which resolves "body" needs. His grace is sufficient.

- d. For preservation from failure. Col. 4:14

It was Demas who deserted Paul for this present age (2 Tim. 4:10). The flesh fails; grace wins. It is sufficient for failure!

Hence:

- By PAUL -- the Praiser ("Amen")  
    "The Man with an Approval" (mouth)

This familiar word is a solemn assent to all that has been written. It might be translated "so be it." That's the way Paul concludes his letter. May we do the same when we conclude our prayers.