

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY  
**MEN OF THE WORD**  
MEN'S MINISTRY  
2018 – 19

**“Putting Christ First”**

**Session 16**

**March 19, 2019**

**“Passionate, Purposeful Prayer”**

Paul now comes to another brother who can be a great example to us in how to live out our life as a new man in Christ. This **“bondservant of Christ”** shows us the kind of prayer life we should all have in the Spirit; not only by his laboring, but by the priority of his prayer. Epaphras labors in prayer for others, and his prayers are consistent with the purposes of God. This is an example that we should take very seriously, for there is great need in the church for a passionate and purposeful prayer life by all believers. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 21:13 that His house shall be called **“a house of prayer.”** If we do indeed put Christ first, shouldn't we be obedient to that call?

As you read about this precious brother, look at your own walk with Jesus. Does your prayer life match up to Epaphras? If not, ask the Holy Spirit to stir in you a passion for crying out to God for the sake of the church; that it would become all that it was meant to be in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ!

**Passage:** Colossians 4:12-15

**Personal Study Time Questions:**

**Scripture: Colossians 1:5-7**

We first heard of Epaphras in this Letter back in chapter 1. Go back and read those verses. What's the heart of what the Colossians **“learned from Epaphras”** based on what verses 5 and 6 say?

**Scripture: Colossians 4:12a**

This verse lets the Colossians know that Epaphras is praying for them. We often say that to one another as believers; “I'm praying for you.” But do we? And if we do, do we drop a quick “help so and so in this area, Lord” down then go about our business? How does verse 12 describe the way Epaphras prayed?

**Scripture: Colossians 4:12b**

Are Epaphras prayers kind of general or are they more specific? Paul's mention of what Epaphras is praying reveals the priority of his thoughts toward the church. What is he praying for? Is it for "health and wealth"?

**Scripture: Colossians 4:13**

What in this verse indicates that Epaphras isn't praying for his own selfish purposes? What does this tell you about the direction your own prayer life should take?

**Personal meditation time with Jesus:**

Another brother, Demas, is mentioned in Colossians 4:14. His story is a great lesson as to why a passionate, purposeful prayer life, as well as the specific prayer of Epaphras is so vitally important, and one we should all take to heart as we consider those who have fallen away from the Lord. Read what Paul says about Demas in the Colossian verse, and then what was said about him later in 2 Timothy 4:10. Why is the prayer Epaphras prayed for the church so important in light of what happened to Demas? What was Demas issue? Do you know of brothers or Pastors that have fallen away from the Lord? Prayer in the "spiritual warfare" part of Ephesians 6 (v.10-20) is seen as an offensive weapon in the battle we all face. Therefore, spend a moment in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to change your attitude towards prayer and ask Him to give you the same passion for prayer and for others that Epaphras had. Then, spend some time praying what Epaphras prayed for brothers in the Lord that you know.

**Hide God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):**

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

Colossians 4:12