

## *A Servant's Heart*

### *Colossians 4:7-18*

*"Our Lord underlines this principle with the fact of his own example: **"I am among you as one who serves"** [Lk. 22:27]. Usefulness in the world and the Christian church, a humble readiness to do anything, a cheerful willingness to fill any post, however lowly are the true tests of Christian greatness. The hero in Christ's army is not the man whose rank and title and dignity and chariots and horsemen and fifty men to run after him. It is the man who is not concerned about himself but about other people. It is the man who is kind to everyone, thoughtful toward everyone, ever helpful and sympathetic. It is the man who spends his time binding up the brokenhearted, befriending the friendless, comforting the sorrowful, and enlightening the ignorant. This is the truly great man in God's sight. The world may ridicule his efforts and deny the sincerity of his motives, but while the world is sneering, God is pleased. This is the man [or woman] who is walking most closely in the steps of Christ." J.C.Ryle*

- I. What we see in Paul's closing comments to the church in Colosse, are the Lord's bond servants setting examples for us to follow concerning the value of using their gifts to serve the kingdom of God. He has given every believer a grace gift(s) to bless the body of Christ and to accomplish his will in the church. To disregard his gift(s), is to disregard the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Col. 4:7-17

Romans 12:3-8

Matt 20:28

1 Cor. 12:4-7,27

**χάρισμα charisma** = grace or gifts denoting extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit (Strong's Lexicon)

- A. The Lord looks for and empowers workers for the kingdom of God, fellow bondservants (**syndoulos**) who will be faithful in using their gifts to further the work of the gospel. He looks for those who have a heart for people and are willing to work hard for them, so that they too are enabled to stand firm in his strength as they live God's will, mature and fully assured in the faith (**Col. 3:24**).

Col. 4:7-13

Acts 19:29

Col. 1:3-8

- B. The Lord, from the inception of the church, brings believers together as an intimate assembly of brothers and sisters in Christ (**ekklēsia**), so that he can minister to us as he accomplishes his will through the gifts he has given to those who know and love him.

Col. 4:15-16

**Hebrews 10:23-25** *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and so much more as we see the Day approaching.*

- II. The gifts the Lord gives us are grace gifts meant to be an extension of God's grace to his precious church, which was bought with the blood of Christ. His grace brought us into salvation, and his grace will sustain us till he calls us up into the clouds to be with him forever and ever, **Maranatha!**

Col. 4:18

Eph. 2:8-9

**2 Cor. 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*