

Colossians 4:7-18

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I. Introduction.

II. Remarks about people.

- A. Paul attributes the workers to the Lord and not himself.
- B. The Gentile-Jew relationship was strained, but Christ brought the two groups together as one.
- C. The gospel of God accomplishes great good in the world.
- D. Paul was concerned with updating people and also being comforted by them.
 - 1. Paul wanted to win people to Christ.
 - 2. He also wanted people to grow in their faith.

III. God can take the likes of anyone and use him to advance the cause of Christ making a real impact on this world.

- A. Historically the church made such a huge impact on the world that historians say that it could not have happened. (Acts 5:28, 19:10, 17:6)
 - 1. The workforce was made of common laborers.
 - 2. The method was winning the convert and training the new convert.
 - 3. Multiplication was their basic method in the early church.
- B. Mathematically producing two more disciples for one person works exponentially over time. (Matthew 13:38)

IV. The good seed.

- A. In order to be fruitful the good seed must die to self and die to the world. (John 12:24)
 - 1. If the seed dies to self there will be staggering multiplication.
 - 2. God is no respecter of persons - God has a plan for everyone of our lives.
- B. There must be a clear focus. (2 Timothy 2:2)
- C. Remember the secret of fruitfulness.
- D. Rely on your primary resource - the Holy Spirit. (John 15)
 - A. You cannot be an effective witness without the Spirit.

B. The Spirit convinces and convicts the nonbeliever.

C. Trust the Spirit to do His work.

E. Remember that the field is the world.

F. Be willing to invest your time in helping other's ministries.

V. Conclusion.

A. There is excitement in knowing that you are going to invest your life in something that really matters.

B. It takes time to do this job. You can do too much too soon with too many. (Isaiah 58:10)

C. God waits for us to be willing to give Him our best.

Application questions

1. Can God really use anyone? Defend your answer.

2. Which characteristic of good seed stands out to you? Explain.

3. How are you living out the life of good seed? In what areas are you strong and in what areas can you use some growth? Be specific.
