



**COLOSSIANS:  
SATISFIED IN CHRIST**  
An interactive Bible study for  
individuals, families,  
and LIFE Groups

**~Week Six~**  
**“Bless for Success”**  
Colossians 4:2-6

**Welcome** to UPC’s study of the book of Colossians entitled “Satisfied in Christ.” These weekly lessons are coordinated with the Sunday sermons at UPC. On Sunday morning you will hear a sermon on a selection from Colossians. That week’s study guide will focus on the NEXT section in the book of Colossians. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

**WARM UP**

Share your answers to these questions:

Who are your heroes? (And you don’t have to say Jesus or a person in the Bible or your spouse!)

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What qualities and behavior patterns of that person do you most admire?

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Which ONE of those qualities do you most aspire to have?

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**RECALL – Colossians 3:22-4:1**

The Sunday sermon dealt with the Apostle Paul’s words to slaves and masters. Paul was by no means condoning slavery or promoting slave traffic. Nevertheless, slavery was an accepted part of the culture of the day. Slaves and masters were members of the church in Colosse! Therefore, Paul admonished them to occupy their stations in life in a way that would glorify and honor God.

- a) Do you agree with this interpretation of Paul’s teaching about slaves and masters? If so, why? If not, why not?  
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- b) How did Mark Bates in his sermon *apply* Paul’s teaching to the modern American context?  
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- c) How might Paul’s admonitions to slaves and masters have been counter-cultural in his own day?  
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- d) How are they counter-cultural for our times?  
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- e) *For you*, what are some practical implications of Colossians 3:23?  
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- f) Share something you found particularly interesting, encouraging, convicting, or relevant in Sunday’s sermon.  
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## REFLECT – Colossians 4:2-6

As Paul nears the end of his letter, he reminds the Colossians of some very basic attitudes and actions that will help them have a positive impact on others, particularly unbelievers.

- a) In this short passage of Scripture, Paul mentions prayer three times. Why? What do you suppose Paul's prison experience has taught him about the importance of prayer?

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- b) What does "being watchful" (verse 2) mean to you?

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- c) Why do you think God chooses to "open a door" (verse 3) in response to people's prayers?

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- d) Take a moment and evaluate: How well are you (or your group or family) applying Paul's teaching on prayer in verses 2-4? Where could you improve?

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- e) What does a lifestyle "seasoned with salt" really look like to you (verse 6)?

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## RESPOND

- a) Perhaps it is time to be reminded where Paul was when he wrote Colossians. He was under house arrest in Rome, awaiting an uncertain future. Is there any sense in which you feel you are imprisoned?

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- b) Perhaps your "prison" is an unhappy relationship – or lack of one. Perhaps it is a dead-end job, demanding children, a painful past, a physical infirmity, emotional depression, or fear of the future. Whatever limits, discourages, or inhibits you might be considered a "prison" of sorts. Paul, though in prison, saw his plight as an opportunity. He shared his faith with others (vss. 3-4). He focused on the needs and feelings of others (vss. 5-6). Has your prison turned you inward on yourself? How might you turn your prison into a place of service and charity, "making the most of EVERY opportunity" (vs. 5)?

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The way to love someone is to lightly run your finger over that person's soul until you find a crack, and then gently pour your love into that crack.  
(Keith Miller)