

Title: "Epaphras- A bondservant of Christ"

Text: **Colossians 4:12-13**

(I) WHO IS EPAPHRAS?

1. A member of the church at Colosse

"Epaphras, who is one of you..." Colossians 4:12a

2. A servant of the Lord

"A bondservant of Christ" Colossians 4:12b

(II) WHAT WAS HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION?

1. He had a very significant prayer-ministry

"Always labouring fervently for you in prayers..." Colossians 4:12c

2. Outstanding ministry in prayer

- a) To always be in prayer
- b) To actually labour in prayer
- c) To actually maintain fervour in prayer consistently

(III) HOW WAS HE ABLE TO MAINTAIN SUCH A SPIRIT IN PRAYER?

1. He possessed deep spiritual insight

- a) He knew that the Colossians were not "standing perfect" in their faith (**Colossians 4:10e**)
- b) He also knew that the Colossians did not stand "complete in the will of God" (**Colossians 4:10f**)
- c) He laboured fervently in prayer for them that they may "stand perfect" (**Colossians 4:12d**)
 - i) Paul's part was to write to the Colossians
 - ii) Epaphras saw his part as one of supporting Paul through prayer

- iii) His faith in the Lord, that He would hear and answer prayer sustained him

- d) He had a great zeal for the Lord
 - i) For the Colossians (**Colossians 4:13a**)
 - ii) For the Laodiceans (**Colossians 4:13b**)
 - iii) For those in Hierapolis (**Colossians 4:13c**)

Reminiscent of the zeal of the Lord Jesus

*“Then His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for Your house has eaten me up.’” **John 2:17***

(IV) OUR CHALLENGE

1. To cultivate a prayer-ministry

2. To develop a strong supportive ministry

- a) Recognising the gifts of others
- b) Choosing to give strong support

3. To possess the same zeal as Jesus had