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**Last Words: Paul's Concluding Colossians Comments**  
(Colossians 4:18)

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**NKJ** This salutation by my own hand -- Paul. Remember my chains. Grace [be] with you. Amen.

**BGT** Ὁ ἀπασιμὸς τῆ ἐμῆ χειρὶ Παύλου. μνημονεύετε μου τῶν δεσμῶν. ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν.

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### I. Paul's Stated Identity

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

### II. Paul's Special Greeting

*"The salutation by my own hand – Paul"* (Ὁ ἀπασιμὸς τῆ ἐμῆ χειρὶ Παύλου.)

#### A. The Practice of Dictation in Ministry

- **For efficiency**  
Rom 16:22 – I, Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, greet you in the Lord.
- **For expediency**  
(eyesight problems? / incarceration issues)  
1 Cor 16:21 – The salutation with my own hand -- Paul's.  
Gal 6:11 – See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!  
Phmn 19 – I, Paul, am writing with my own hand. I will repay – not to mention to you that you owe me even your own self besides.

#### B. The Presence of Difficulty in Ministry

- Illness
- Imprisonment
- Inconvenience

#### C. The Presence of Deceivers in Ministry

- **To mark this letter as real**  
2 Thes 3:17 – The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.
- **To discourage the spread of fake letters**  
2 Thes 2:1-2 – Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.
- **To counteract the dangers (Acts 20:28-30)**

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – September 21, 2008

### III. Paul's Final Command

*"Remember my chains."* (μνημονεύετε μου τῶν δεσμῶν.)

#### A. The Reality of Ministry (Chains)

- Willingness to suffer hardship (2 Tim 2:3)
- Willingness to pay the cost (Luke 14:28)

#### B. The Responsibility of Believers (Remember)

- **To gain encouragement**  
Phil 1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- **To develop perspective**  
Eph 3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles --  
Phil 1:13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;  
2 Tim 2:9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, [even] to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.
- **To uphold in prayer**  
Heb 13:3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them -- those who are mistreated -- since you yourselves are in the body also.
- **To send assistance**  
Phil 4:10-14 <sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

### IV. Paul's Concluding Blessing

*"Grace [be] with you. Amen."* (ἡ χάρις μεθ' ὑμῶν.)

#### A. To Be Reminded of God's Grace

#### B. To Be Encouraged to Experience God's Grace

- **Grace in salvation (1:6; Eph 2:8-9)**
- **Grace in sanctification (3:16; 2 Pet 3:18)**
- **Grace in service (Rom 12:3-8, cf. 1 Cor 12, 1 Pet 4)**
- **Grace in suffering (2 Cor 12:7-10)**