



Lesson Eight = Jesus is First Because of His Family
Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (July 27, 2014)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

TEXT: Colossians 4:7-18

Introduction: On Sunday nights we are doing a parallel study to the book of Ephesians (our Sunday morning series). The book of Ephesians explains how Jesus should be seen as our first love. The book of Colossians reveals why Jesus is first. In this last lesson for the series, we will notice that Jesus is first because of His family. The apostle Paul finishes his letter to the Colossians by recognizing other Christian workers that are a significant part of the family of God. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. The Lord's Family is Known For Its Trustworthiness (4:7-14)

- A. God's children should be dedicated servants (v.7).
- B. God's children should be reliable comforters (v.8).
- C. God's children should be concerned brethren (v.9).
- D. God's children should be hospitable friends (v.10).
- E. God's children should be dependable workers (v.11).
- F. God's children should be mature followers (v.12).
- G. God's children should be zealous witnesses (v.13)
- H. God's children should be supportive disciples (v.14).

II. The Lord's Family is Known For Its Togetherness (4:15-16)

- A. God's children edify and encourage each other (v.15).
- B. God's children meet in their own homes (v.15).
- C. God's children read the Scriptures (v.16).
- D. God's children study the Scriptures (v.16).
- E. God's children teach the Scriptures (v.16).

III. The Lord's Family is Known For Its Tenderness (4:17-18)

- A. God's children minister to the community (v.17).
- B. God's children receive the truth and pass it on (v.17).
- C. God's children fulfill God's will (v.17).
- D. God's children support one another (v.18).
- E. God's children do not forget each other (v.18).

Conclusion: As we close out this series I want to draw your mind back to the last verse (v.18). Paul signed this letter with his own hand. Why is that significant? It was valuable to the church family in Colossae. He was personally attached to them. He truly loved them and wanted to see them succeed at putting Christ first in their lives. Have you committed your life to Him? Have you been cleansed by His precious blood? Have you been filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you a part of the family of God?