

Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak every man truth with his neighbours. Let him that stole steal no more. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger be put away from you and be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Therefore be ye imitators of God as dear children and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you and gave himself for you.

Ye were once darkness but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

Keep your family life as God would have it. Wives be subject to your husbands. Husbands love your wives even as Christ loved the Church. Children obey your parents in the Lord. Servants be obedient to your masters not with eye service as men-pleasers but as servants of Christ, doing your service as to the Lord not unto men. And ye masters, do the same by them, knowing that both their Master and yours is in Heaven and there is no respect of persons with him.

Finally be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand in the evil day.

And continue in supplication for all Christians and for me that utterance may be given to me to make known with boldness this mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in a chain.

Peace be to the brethren and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

VI

These are the four Epistles of the Captivity, Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, some of the results of Paul's two years in that prison room. Which suggests a lesson for us. To many of Paul's friends it must have seemed such a waste that God should leave his great apostle cooped up in confinement for two years when he might have been preaching Christ and building up in the Imperial City the central church of Christendom.