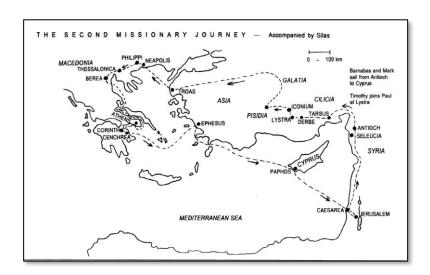




Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. Carefully observe the text looking for clues to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure laying just under the surface. First, read the whole passage in context. Pay attention to the paragraph breaks to gain the whole thought, as it relates to the whole text. Are there words that lead you to look before or after the passage to gain the full context? There is a saying, "Whenever you see the word 'therefore' look to see what it is there... for." The word "and" tells us that something else goes with it, maybe to show contrast, or similarities, or even a series. Repeated words or phrases, help us discover the main thought of the author. The text will speak for itself, be careful not to read in your own assumptions. The bible interprets itself, so if you ask a question of it, the answer will be found within the pages of scripture.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight words or thoughts to you as you begin to carefully read the text over several times. Reading it in different translations helps you gain more insight. Use the text provided in the lesson as a worksheet. Mark the text in whatever way that helps you the most. Colored pencils are helpful, looking up words in dictionaries, or cross-references help you gain further insight and fill in the details. Read thoughtfully and prayerfully and see what the Lord wants to show you. Each week will be an exciting journey as you place your feet in the imprints that Paul left us on his journey to *knowing Christ* more intimately.

Lesson Text

Col 4:2-4

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Col 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Col 4:7-18

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.

16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it." 18 This salutation by my own hand — Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.



Looking for Gold - What does it say?

Like a miner looking for a gold vein, read the section and record what you see. Keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage by **marking your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts, similarities. Look for answers to questions that answer, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Briefly

describe, in your own words the clues you find. Do your best to follow the authors train of thought as to what he is trying to say?

	hat stands out to you as you read
the passage Challenge	Digging Deeper Use this section to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts impressions or questions that come to mind as you look for correlating evidence in other parts of scripture through cross-references. Dig deeper into the meaning of words that sticker are repeated. Background information in encyclopedias or dictionaries or handbooks bring a alive. Keep your eyes open to find any commands to obey, or questions to be answered etc. The graph of the passage of the passage of the passage of the passage. Record what you find.

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Boiling it Down - What does it mean?

Now is the time to boil down what you have found. What lessons can you draw from what you have seen. There may be multiple lessons, **state each in a simple sentence**.

What LESS	SONS can I draw from my observations?
	<u>Refined as Gold</u> - How can I apply it? What steps do I need to take to APPLY each lesson? Your applications should suggest a course of action. Record an application for each lesson.
Challenge lessons.	e: Use your cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up your



Storing up Your Treasure ...

Bars of Gold	Try to state the main content of the passage in the form of a title.
Col 4:2-4 Col 4:5-6 Col 4:7-18	
	. This helps you fully understand what author is trying to convey. (It's you want to try) Did you catch his vision?

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. NKJV

Radiating His Truth . . .

Words are born in the heart, not in the head. Oswald Chambers

Message Notes
