**A Man Duty Bound**

The second word in the letter is "apostle", the title of its author (Col 1:1).

The Greek word for "apostle" is from apo meaning "out" and stello meaning "send".

Paul was one "sent out" on a mission. Paul thought of his apostleship as stewardship (Col 1:25 1Cor 9:17).

To Paul the word "apostle" was not a fancy title, but a description of his duty. Paul was duty conscious, not title conscious. When he said, "I am an apostle", he meant, "I have a duty to speak" (Col 4:4 1Co 9:16).

**A Man In Prison**

At the time of writing Colossians, Paul was under house arrest. He refers to his predicament in chapter four: "...the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains" (Col 4:3); "...my fellow prisoner Aristarchus" (Col 4:10); "...remember my chains". (Col 4:18).

Paul might easily have taken the attitude, "If God wants me to work as an apostle, let him get me out of these chains". Instead, he says, "I rejoice in my sufferings" (Col 1:24). He is glad to suffer for the Saviour who suffered so much for him.

**A Caring Man**

Paul writes with deep concern.

- He cares about people even though he does not know them all personally (Col 2:1-2).
- He prays for them (Col 1:3,9)
- He wants to share news with them (Col 4:9).
- He craves their fellowship, and speaks wistfully of being present with them in spirit though absent in body (Col 2:5).

His deep care can be felt in such phrases as:

- "...if indeed you continue in the faith" (Col 1:23),
- "...see that no one takes you captive" (Col 2:8),
- "...do not let anyone disqualify you" (Col 2:18),
- "...teach and admonish one another" (Col 3:16).

Paul enjoins on his friends what he practices himself: "Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness" (Col 3:12). He shared with them their "love for all saints" (Col 1:4).

**An Exemplary Man**

Paul was truly an amazing man! Let us be inspired by his example, that his benediction, "Grace be with you", might be upon us (Col 4:18).

**A Man In Good Company**

Paul had built brotherhood with several men of God. Some of them are named (Col 1:1 4:7-18). There are three things particularly that come out of the way Paul speaks of these folk:

- Their warm and brotherly comradeship;
- Their mutual trust, confidence, and respect, enabling them to share important duties;
- Their unselfish, dedicated, and sacrificial devotion to those duties.