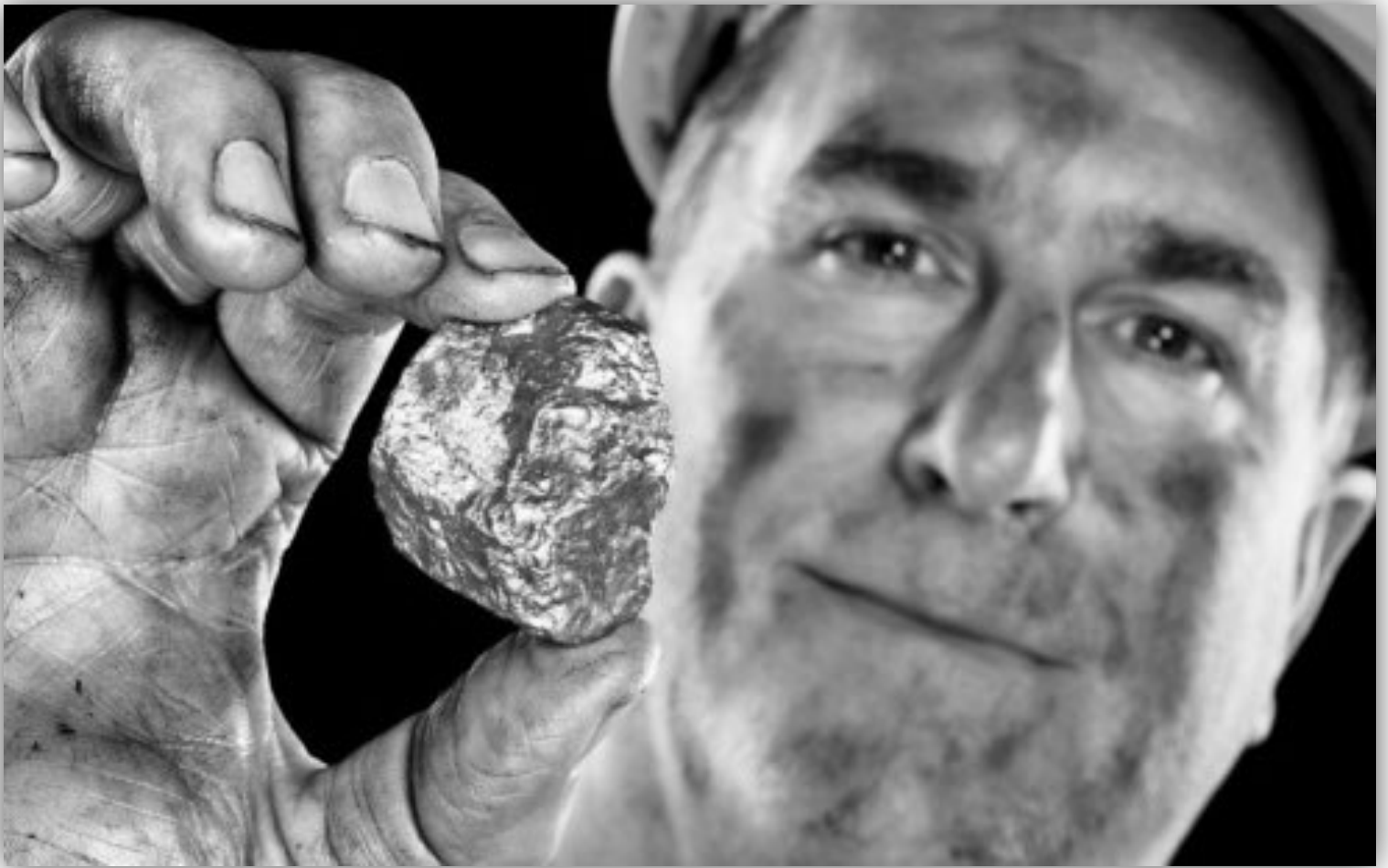


BUILT 2 BLESS #12

Focused Living Ministry



At one time Andrew Carnegie was the wealthiest man in the US owning its largest steel plants. At one time he had 43 millionaires (\$20M in today's dollar) working for him. A reporter asked him "How did you develop these men to

become so valuable that you paid them this much money?" Carnegie replied that "men are developed the same way gold is mined by removing several tons of dirt to get an ounce of gold; but you don't mine by looking for dirt but looking for the gold." That's exactly how God develops us. At our salvation in Christ He removes the tons of dirt (sin) in order to mine the gold (sanctification) He has built into us as His valuable children.

MEN OF GOLD (Colossians 4:7-17)

After removing the dirt of sin at salvation, what spiritual 'GOLD' did the Apostle Paul discover and mine in the following men?

(7) **Tychicus**

(9) **Onesimus**

(10) **Aristarchus**

(10) **Mark**

(11) **Jesus/Justus**

(12) **Epaphras**

(14) **Luke**

What 2-3 of these spiritual ‘gold’ nuggets do you especially want God to ‘mine’ in your life?

Remember that Ephras (Col 1:7; 4:12) was the one the Lord used to start the churches at both Colossae and in Laodicea. But the men at Laodicea became lax and forgot about continuing to build their lives on the foundation of Christ. According to **Revelations 3:14-22** what kind of men did they eventually become? Why?

How did Demas become such a man?
(II Tim 4:10)

In what ways can you identify with these men?

(19-22) What does the Lord call lukewarm men to do in order to mine spiritual gold once again? What do you need to do?



The choice is yours! You can become men who...

STAYS faithful to the Lord (Col 4:7-11)

PRAYS for others not to stray (4:12-13)

or

STRAYS from the Lord (4:14-17).

EXTRA CREDIT Read through Philemon. Where do you see Paul mining gold in his life in order for him to treat Onesimus like a Brother in Christ thereby advancing the church?

ASSIGNMENT Read through the book of Colossians in one setting and review some of your many Focused Living handout notes this year. Come ready to share the two greatest truths god BUILT into your life and how He has used them to BLESS others.