

Colossians Study Week 10

Colossians 4

Join us this week as we conclude the book of Colossians. Paul sends us off with an encouragement to live like Jesus and to devote ourselves to prayer, have an alert mind and a thankful heart. Think about that... pray, think and be thankful! This is a recipe for a life of contentment and relationship with Jesus!

*****Read Colossians 4*****

Paul instructs us to devote ourselves to prayer, be alert and to be thankful! Man, so much wisdom in these simple words. Church, God answers prayers and sometimes we don't see the answers instantly. Our persistence in prayer is an expression of our faith in God. However, do not be discouraged if a prayer is not answered in the time you want or the way you want. God is always working in our lives and He is working out His will... not ours. If you feel tired of praying, know that God is listening and is present with you. He is always answering, it just might not look the way we want it. God knows best.

Have you ever grown tired praying for someone or something? Have you ever had an unanswered prayer? Do you trust God is working and that His will is accomplished, despite our prayer being answered the way we want?

- Read The following verses and discuss how they relate.
 - Acts 1:14
 - Ephesians 6:18
 - Philippians 4:6
 - Mark 11:24
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - Matthew 6:6
 - Luke 11:9
 - Jeremiah 33:3
 - 1 Peter 5:8
 - 1 Peter 1:13
 - Matthew 24:42
 - John 15:7
 - Ephesians 5:20
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - Psalm 106:1

Read Colossians 4:3-4

What was the focus of Paul's life? It was to share the good news of the Gospel! The mysterious plan he speaks about in verse three is Jesus good news of salvation. He had such a heart for people that he wanted desperately to communicate the message with clarity and authority. We should pray the same way, pray that we share the Gospel with clarity and precision to those we come in contact with.

Have you ever shared the good news of Jesus with somebody? If so, tell us! What scares you most about talking to people about Jesus? How does it make you feel to know that God will help us with communicating what He's done in our lives?

- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate.
 - Ephesians 6:19
 - Acts 14:27
 - 2 Timothy 4:2
 - Ephesians 6:20
 - Deuteronomy 31:6
 - Acts 1:8
 - Joshua 1:9
 - Proverbs 3:6

Read Colossians 4:5-6

Verse five gives us very clear instructions on how we are to act; live wisely. Or as we say in our family, "don't be stupid". Now he focuses on our behavior around those who are not in relationship with Jesus. Why does he do this? He does this because eternity is at stake and our lives are a living testimony of what Jesus has done in us. We are to not just mindlessly go about our days, but we are called to make the most of every single opportunity to share the good news of Jesus.

Do you think about people's eternity? Do you care that people you know and love or people you encounter during the day, are headed for an eternity in Hell? How do you act around people who are far from Jesus? If you never spoke a word about Jesus or your beliefs, what would your life lived say about who you are? What opportunity do you need to step into and share the love of Jesus?

- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate.
 - Ephesians 5:15
 - Matthew 22:37-40
 - Proverbs 12:15

- James 1:5
- Hebrews 13:5
- Ephesians 4:29
- Mark 9:50
- 1 Peter 3:15
- Matthew 15:11
- Psalm 141:3
- Proverbs 15:1-4
- When we tell people about Jesus, it is always good to be gracious in what we say. No matter how much truth we have or if we have the right answers, our message loses its effectiveness if we are not courteous. The old adage, treat others as you would like to be treated, is true! Some translations say our speech should be “seasoned with salt” or “attractive” meaning our words should encourage further discussion... not cramming a message down somebody’s throat.

Colossians 4:7-18 are Paul’s final greetings and instructions to the Colossians church. Below you will find some bullet point highlights and information.

- Verse 7: Tychicus was one of Paul’s representatives and most likely brought this letter to the Colossian church and another letter to the Ephesian church.
- Verse 10: Aristarchus was a Theselonian who was with Paul on his third missionary journey. He was with Paul in the riot at Ephesus, in Greece and Rome.
- Verse 12: Epaphras was the founder of the Colossian Church, and it was his report to Paul in Rome that caused him to write this letter. He was a hero of the Colossian church and helped keep the church together during their issues.
- Verse 14: Luke spent a lot of time with Paul. He not only was with him on his third missionary journey, but was with him while he was in prison in Rome. This is Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.
- The end of verse 14 mentions Demas, a coworker of Paul and he was faithful for a bit. He left Paul “having loved this present world”. In context for us, he loved worldly values and worldly pleasures. Are you somebody who claims to be a Christian but loves the ways of the world?
- Notice verse 15, the early church often met in houses. Church buildings were not common until about the third century. This time of Covid and pandemic has brought us back to meeting in houses... interesting.
- Verse 17: Paul encourages Archippus to make sure to complete God’s work. There are so many ways our work and life can be left unfinished. How many of us are so easily sidetracked, get caught up in sin, get too tired or working hard, quit when things get difficult, whine when things don’t roll our way. Resolve to finish God’s work, finish the assignment, finish the race!

To fully understand the book of Colossians, we must understand what the church was going through. The church was facing massive pressure from heresy that promised a deeper spiritual life through secret knowledge... a form of Gnosticism. These false teachers were eroding faith

in Jesus by undermining Jesus' humanity and divinity. Paul makes it clear, Jesus is the head of the body of believers and He alone is the source of our spiritual life. Simply put, Jesus is Lord. The path to a deeper relationship with God is not through religious actions or special secret knowledge, it's simply made available for all through Jesus. Church, never let anything come between you and Jesus!