



MONDAY 24 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 4:2 & 2 Thessalonians 1

Plug In...

The act of prayer is how you be watchful and thankful. The word devote means 'to persist in'. The idea is not that the Colossian church prays, but that the Colossian church is *characterised* by prayer. To be alert in prayer is to understand that there is great opposition against the church since Jesus rose again. Remember, the age of the Messiah means the saints of the church are opposed and pressured ([Colossians 1:24-27](#)). We battle the evil opposition by calling on Jesus who is Lord – the Supreme Ruler of everything ([Colossians 1:15-18](#)).

Chew It Over...

Reflect on the things Paul specifically asks that the Colossians pray for (vv. [4-6](#)). How do these requests relate to the time of the Messiah (the time between His rising from the dead and His return)?

What hope is prayer based on from [2 Thessalonians 1](#)?

Prayer Suggestion

Consider where you are facing opposition for your faith. Pray for Jesus to intervene. Ask Jesus for perception as to what are the most important priorities in prayer. Thank Jesus that despite opposition the gospel is bearing fruit all over the world, even in us ([Colossians 1:3-6](#)).



TUESDAY 25 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 4:3-4

Plug In...

Paul asks for doors to be open for the good news message. Specifically, Paul wants to proclaim the 'mystery of Christ'. Not just talking about spiritual things, not just talking about God, but to talk specifically about Jesus as Lord – for Jew and Gentile.

Proclaiming this 'mystery' opens up opposition and suffering, and in Paul's case imprisonment ([Colossians 1:24-27](#)).

Chew It Over...

Paul was called by God to go to the Gentiles. He was clearly very talented and gifted, steeped in the Scriptures and could speak the gospel clearly. Paul also had great resolve and boldness; he's amazing to watch as he takes the opportunities and steers any conversation to Jesus.

Have you heard (or used) the excuse, 'I do not have Paul's gifts' to dial back efforts in evangelism? It is hard to conclude that a Christian not be involved in sharing the antidote to death and judgement with their neighbour. Here, we are given the reason for Paul's success and giftedness. He prayed. He asked God for doors to open to specifically have opportunity to share Christ; He asked to be able to speak clearly and wisely. The note, "for which I am in chains", shows that he prays for boldness through any fear or suffering (cf. [Ephesians 6:19](#)).

You may not have seen a person come to faith from your witnessing lately, or ever, but that is a different question. Do you even have the door to proclaim open? Are we asking for this?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray for doors to open; ask to actually share the message of Christ; pray to proclaim clearly and fearlessly.



WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 4:5-6 & Psalm 26

Plug In...

Literally the phrase says, “In wisdom be walking”. Parallel to praying for opportunities to speak the message of Christ, Paul says pray for lives that exemplify God’s wisdom.

The goal of this prayer is to connect and reach the non-Christian. To utilise the time with them.

Chew It Over...

Consider all the spaces and places you connect with non-Christians. Begin to own that this time is not neutral. How can you leverage this time you have with them? Consider:

Am I praying to walk wisely before them?

Am I asking to make the most of each relationship and each moment with them?

How can I show the wise life? Show love? Justice? Generosity? Patience?

How can I connect with unbelievers in a way that doesn’t cross-the-line ([Psalm 26](#))?

How can I escalate a conversation, a relationship this week where I might even put the relationship on the line (“for which you may be in chains”) in order to share Christ?

Prayer Suggestion

Given the times, these are big things to do. We surely must pray over it before doing it. Pray being watchful and thankful.



THURSDAY 27 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 4:6 & Proverbs 10:20-21

Plug In...

Christians are to let all their speech, especially to the outsider, match the reality that they themselves live in a state of grace.

Salt was an ancient preservative and flavour enhancer. The idea is that the Christian's speech is pleasant and inoffensive.

Chew It Over...

Notice here Paul doesn't say load up in such a way that we've got slam-dunk answers to evolution-theory, atheism, etc. Nor does he say make sure you fully understand the Bible before you dare launch out. No, Paul focuses here more on the style in which we answer. We are grace-experiencing-people. We can talk about that. We can talk from that. We can talk in a manner characterised by that. To those whom God has called, grace is very very attractive.

Knowing that Jesus' forgiveness covers everything, do you need to repent of how you've tackled hard conversations with others? Knowing Jesus' forgiveness enables new patterns, how will you re-shape how you talk to people for the rest of this week?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord to make you aware of how you are being perceived and heard. Ask that graciousness bubbles forth and flavours your speech from here on in.



FRIDAY 28 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 4:7-9

Plug In...

Tychicus was carrying this letter from Paul, in prison, to the church in Colossae.

In three ways Paul describes Tychicus: *a loved brother; a faithful minister; a fellow servant.*

Chew It Over...

Stephen Covey in *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (a business book) gets CEOs imagining their funeral. Imagine what people would say about you in your eulogy. His theory is, if you begin with the end in mind, imagining it now, then you'll go for it. Imagine your funeral – what do you want remembered about you? What descriptions used? Now what needs to change to bring your life in alignment with that?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God to make clear what you need to drop, pick up, change, in order to have time to love others, faithfully minister the gospel, and serve others in the same work.



WEEKEND 29-30 JULY 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 4:10-18 & Acts 15:13-41

Plug In...

Paul sends his personal greetings to people in the Colossian church. The greetings make the letter very personal. Notice the intimacy is brought about by being joined together in the gospel and in the ministry of the gospel. The extra comments Paul gives with each name highlights the partnership in the gospel in some aspect, e.g. *encouraging your hearts; contending in prayer*.

There is an extra comment about Mark, Barnabas' cousin: "Welcome him." Mark had accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey ([Acts 15:36-41](#)). For some reason, Mark left the group and returned home to Jerusalem and this caused a dispute between Paul and Barnabas. What happened next we don't know. But many years later, here in Colossians, while Paul is in prison, Paul says Mark is a 'fellow-worker', and a comfort to him ([Philemon 24](#)).

Chew It Over...

In these final greetings, we have test cases that the reality of the gospel, the reality of true love coming forth, appears. Relationships go south, but the gospel reconciles and it brings a culture of forgiveness ([Colossians 3:12-14](#)). Mark has been reconciled and forgiven, Paul urges the Colossian church to do the same, "Welcome him". Likewise, Onesimus was a slave who had run away from Philemon. Now as a Christian, working for the gospel, Paul is putting forth a test case that the realities of [3:22 – 4:1](#) is lived out.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord to reveal where you need to take 'theory' and make it real in practice.
Who do you tangible need to forgive? Pray for someone within the church community.
Pray for someone at your work. Pray for someone within your family.