



Colossians 4:2-18 - How Does Jesus Change Everyday Life?

January 7, 2018

1. Jesus makes us people of prayer.

1. Pray all the time.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:9–13 (ESV)

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. Luke 18:1 (ESV)

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12 (ESV)

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. James 4:2 (ESV)

2. Stay awake in prayer.

1. Don't limit your prayer time to bed time.

2. Pray on your commute.
 3. Take a prayer walk
 4. Use a prayer journal.
3. Pray with thanksgiving, not just requests.
 4. Pray for an open door to share about Christ.

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:3–4 (ESV)

But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. 1 Corinthians 16:8–9 (ESV)

And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. Acts 14:27 (ESV)

2. Jesus changes ordinary choices.

1. Use wisdom to make wise choices, not just right choices.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Colossians 4:5 (ESV)

2. Make the best use of our limited time.

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:12 (ESV)

3. Jesus changes the way we speak.

1. The grace we receive from Christ should be experienced by others through our gracious words.

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

2. Let our speech be attractive, as if seasoned by salt.

4. We need good Christian friends.

Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Colossians 4:7–18 (ESV)

1. Tychicus

2. Onesimus

3. Aristarchus

4. Mark

5. Jesus (also called Justus)

6. Epaphras

7. Luke

8. Demas

Conclusion

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. Why do we find prayer difficult? What should motivate us to pray?
2. What advice would you give a friend who finds it difficult to make time for prayer (See Galatians 4:6, Luke 11:8-13, James 4:2)?
3. **Read Matthew 6:5-15.** What does Jesus teach us about prayer? What can we apply from Jesus' words that changes our time in prayer beginning tomorrow?
4. Why are church prayer meetings poorly attended? What can church leaders do to encourage more people to attend those meetings?
5. What is an "open door" for the word? Why should we pray for one?
6. **Read Colossians 4:2-6.** While Paul asks for prayer that an open door for the word of God will be provided, he implies that our conduct toward outsiders helps open that door. What about our conduct helps open the door to the gospel? Has this changed your view of evangelism? *(Remember that good works creates good will which opens the door to the good news.)*
7. How does our experience of God's grace affect the way we talk to others? Provide examples.
8. How does Jesus change the way we use our time? Why is wise time management essential to the Christian life?
9. Paul closes this letter by acknowledging his Christian friends and their importance in his life. Which of Paul's friends did you find fascinating? Why are close Christian friends an essential part of the Christian life? How is Christian friendship different from typical friendship (See Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; John 15:13)?