**Colossians Family Worship Devotions – Week 4**

**Day 1: Watch and Pray**

*“A friend of mine took his small son with him to town one day to run some errands. When lunch time arrived, the two of them went to a familiar diner for a sandwich. The father sat down on one of the stools at the counter and lifted the boy up to the seat beside him. They ordered lunch, and when the waiter brought the food, the father said, "Son, we'll just have a silent prayer." Dad got through praying first and waited for the boy to finish his prayer, but he just sat with his head bowed for an unusually long time. When he finally looked up, his father asked him, "What in the world were you praying about all that time?" With the innocence and honesty of a child, he replied, "How do I know? It was a silent prayer." (Excerpt from Our Daily Bread)*

Prayer is vital in the life of a believer. And in these verses Paul not only urges the church in Colossae to pray but gives them a specific item to pray for.

***Read Colossians 4:2-4***

**Questions**

* What does it mean to pray?
* How often should we pray?
* We are told to be watchful in prayer. Why do you think that is important?
* Sometimes we ask people for pray requests. Here Paul gives one to the church in Colossae. What is it? What does this reveal about Paul’s heart?

**Suggested Songs**

* God’s Great Family - <https://youtu.be/2K5eLjDuIZ4>
* Lift High the Name of Jesus - <https://youtu.be/ccm9lN1jlVw>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Ask each person in your family for something that you can pray for. Spend time praying for the items.

**Day 2: Walking in Wisdom**

Read Colossians 3:5-6

In the verses before these ones, Paul had asked for prayer for opportunities where he could preach the gospel to others. He then turns and reminds the church that they too are to be engaged in this ministry as well.

Something that is important to notice in these verses is that Paul is encouraging us to walk in wisdom “toward outsiders”. Though it may not sit well with us, there is indeed two groups of people in the world. Those inside the church and those outside the church. Everyone who has yet to believe is outside of the church, even if they may be inside the building, because they are outside of Jesus.

The church is the body of Jesus here on earth. And we are instructed by Jesus, our head, to walk wisely in front of those who are not part of the church. So what does this mean? Well, hopefully the questions below can help us better understand.

**Questions**

* Part of what it means to walk in wisdom is revealed in a parallel passage. Read Ephesians 5:15-21, and sum up what it means to walk in wisdom.
* Another part of what it means to walk in wisdom is shown in the words, “making the best use of the time”. Keeping in mind that the focus is our witness towards outsiders, how do we make the best use of our time?
* A final part of what it means to walk in wisdom focuses on our speech. What does it mean for our words to be gracious and seasoned with salt?
* Why is it important that our words are gracious and seasoned with salt when we talk to others, especially when we share the gospel to them?

**Suggested Songs**

* Gotta Move! - <https://youtu.be/g2i29SYc0UA>
* Hear the Call of the Kingdom - <https://youtu.be/CU1RcZZnXOg>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that you will be given opportunities this week to share the gospel to those who you encounter regularly.
* Pray that you may recognize these opportunities and have the courage and boldness to make the best use of it.
* Pray that you will share the gospel with words that are gracious and seasoned with salt.

**Day 3: A List of Names**

***Read Colossians 3:7-17***

Who are these people that Paul mentions in these verses? They were all part of Paul’s ministry team. And each of these individuals have a story that they could tell us.

* Tychicus was Paul’s trusted messenger and faithful servant who occasionally relieved elders and filled in for them (2 Tim. 4:12; Titus 3:12).
* Onesimus was the runaway slave that we read about in the letter to Philemon (his master). Somehow he got connected to Paul, was led to Jesus, and then became a useful servant.
* Aristarchus, who is only mentioned a few times in the Bible, was a brave companion of Paul that was willing to endure imprisonment for the sake of the gospel (cf. Acts 19:29; 20:1-5; 27:2)
* Mark is the cousin of Barnabas and the one who wrote the gospel of Mark. At one time he, along with Paul and Barnabas were travelling companions, until Mark deserted them and Paul and Barnabas went separate ways. At some point before this letter was written, Paul and Mark reconciled their relationship.
* Justus, who is only mentioned in this passage, was a Jewish man who had been saved and committed to working with Paul. Paul says that Justus was a source of comfort and strength.
* Epaphras was the one who brought the gospel to Colossae, travelled to Paul for help when the church was struggling, and fervently prayed for all those in the church.
* Luke was a doctor and faithful traveling companion of Paul. He wrote the gospel of Luke as well as the book of Acts.
* Demas was a Christian who helped Paul but then when times grew more challenging decided to leave Paul for the world (2 Tim. 4:9-10)
* Nympha was a lady who opened her house so that Christians could gather and worship Jesus.
* Archippus, who was most likely one of the pastors that met in Nympha’s house, was someone who needed encouragement to continue with his ministry.

**Questions**

* Paul typically ends his letters with a list of names. Each name is someone that was with him and engaged in some form of ministry. With that thought it mind, what is something we can learn about ministry?
* If your name was in the list what would be said about you?

**Suggested Songs**

* Build Your Kingdom Here - <https://youtu.be/YcSWpVKKMcs>
* The Servant Song - <https://youtu.be/unFFWcUIUvU>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray for opportunities where you can serve with others in the church.

**Day 4: Remember My Chains**

***Read Colossians 4:18***

*“Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body” (Hebrews 13:3)*

As Paul closes the letter, he asks for those in Colossae to remember his chains. There may be two reasons for these words. First, it may be an appeal for sympathy and empathy (cf. Gal. 6:17). He was in prison, shackled with cuffs, and enduring hardship for the sake of the gospel. His focus was on others that they may know Jesus (Php. 2:17). And he saw that that his chains advanced the furtherance of the gospel (Php. 1:12-18).

But Paul typically isn’t someone who asks for sympathy, but he is known for calling people to faithful obedience. His chains had come because he was committed to Jesus as he wholeheartedly proclaimed the gospel to the unsaved. He wanted others to remember his commitment and pick up the work and keep going.

**Questions**

* How far are you willing to go for others to know Jesus?
* What if faithfulness to God meant experiencing opposition, suffering and imprisonment?

**Suggested Songs**

* I Surrender All - <https://youtu.be/kfQm6o4V1SI>
* O Church Arise – <https://youtu.be/MZmS81yLjMg>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that God will show you the cost of what it means to follow Him.
* Pray for a resolve to faithfully obey God despite the increasing threat of opposition.