

***The Supremacy of Jesus Christ--Accept No Substitutes
for a Life of Faith in Him***

(Sermons Series on the Book of Colossians)

Message 12:

***Faith Impacting a Believer's Prayer, Speech, and Witness to Outsiders
Colossians 4:2-6***

A number of months back, we did a series on Sunday mornings of the Sermon on the Mount. You may recall that the Sermon on the Mount begins with what is known as the Beattitudes. In the Beattitudes, Jesus said ***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake."***

The Beattitudes are describing the kind of people we are to be in our hearts and in our character. After outlining what we are to be, Jesus turns and says, ***"You are the salt of the earth, and you are the light of the world."*** You see, if we are the type of people described in the Beattitudes, then we will indeed have an impact on society around us.

Paul is saying much the same thing here. We see in this passage that faith is to impact our prayer life, our speech, and our witness to a lost world.

1. AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE TO BE _____
V.V. 2-4

We are being told here not simply to be attentive to prayer, but we are being told to be devoted to it. The classic text in New Testament on perseverance is a parable by Jesus. ***Luke 18:1-8:*** (1) And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (2) He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. (3) And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' (4) For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, (5) yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" (6) And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. (7) And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? (8) I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Notice here in ***Colossians 4*** that Paul gives two statements further qualifying our prayer life. We are to ***"be watchful."*** It has the basic meaning of being awake. It often calls for Christians to be alert or watchful in light of the imminent return of Jesus Christ. In fact, 12 of the 22 N.T. occurrences are in such a context. The context of all of these passages is on the believer's life.

Notice that secondly concerning our prayers, not only are we to be watchful, but we are also to be thankful. Thanksgiving is to characterize our prayers.

He then specifically asks the Colossians to pray for open doors for the Gospel, and that they would furthermore pray for Paul to proclaim the Gospel clearly as he walks through those open doors.

2. AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE TO _____ WITH _____ V.V. 5-6

Ephesians 5 contains a close parallel to what Paul says here. We are to act with wisdom and we are to make the most of our opportunities. Specifically what he is calling on us to do is to use our opportunities for the sake of the Gospel. We are to be a Gospel-oriented people. We are to look at life and all of our circumstances, relationships, and opportunities, as a chance to advance the Good News of Christ.

This morning, I want you to think about the priorities and the witness of your life. As Christians, we are to constantly have a Great Commission mentality.

And, we are not to live independently of God, but rather in prayerful dependence.

Make a commitment this morning to live as the “new man” in Christ ought to live.