

Discovery Group - Colossians

(8) *Pray for Me*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Colossians 4:2-18

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How are we to “make the most of every opportunity?”
- How is our conversation to be “full of grace” and “seasoned with salt?” How can we apply this practically?
- Spend time in prayer for the work of the gospel

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Pray for the work of the gospel.
- Journal about what God has spoken to you through the book of Colossians, and how you can implement these truths into your life in a few practical ways.

Pray for Me

As we come to the end of this powerful letter, Paul - inspired by the Holy Spirit - opens his heart again. He began in chapter 1 by rejoicing in who Jesus is and who He has made us to be. Jesus is fully God, revealing exactly what the Father is like. And through Him we have been rescued from darkness and made perfectly clean, without any blemish. Paul continues by describing how he labors and suffers so that others can truly come to know God as well. With this solid foundation in the gospel that is “bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world” (1:6), Paul turns to issues of doctrine and living. Do not add to the gospel - Jesus is enough! Live as chosen, holy, loved people, cutting off the remnants of sin and darkness and putting on the virtues of Christ.

And now, as we conclude, there seem to be two things on the apostle’s heart. First, as always, is the gospel. His hope and desire, even in prison, is that he might “proclaim the mystery of Christ,” and that he would “proclaim it clearly.” But the gospel must spread not only through the powerful preaching of the apostles. The members of local churches, like the one in Colossae, have a crucial part to play. They participate in the gospel in (at least) three ways:

- (1) **Prayer.** Paul trusts that there is real power in the prayer of God’s people, and he is aware of his desperate need for it. *Devote yourselves to prayer.* The work of the Kingdom is fueled by this.
- (2) **Wise living.** Paul summarizes his exhortations from the previous chapter with this, “Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders.” Live in God’s wisdom (cutting off sin and putting on righteousness) in the midst of an unholy and confused world. Live in such a way that the world takes notice.
- (3) **Grace-filled conversation.** This kind of wise living must eventually provoke discussion with unbelievers, and so God’s people must be prepared to take advantage of these opportunities. Be ready to answer. Your talk must be “full of grace” and “seasoned with salt.”

Finally, the second thing on Paul’s heart is the people he knows and loves. The final twelve verses of this short letter are devoted to personal greetings, commendations, and personal touches. The work of the gospel is not divorced from genuine relationships. People matter. Each of the names mentioned here are precious to Paul - and how much more so to Jesus!