

Prayer Evangelism: Colossians 4:2-6

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ May 8, 2022

Colossians 4:2-6 ESV

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ 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— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Introduction

- have you ever watched a video where someone is being harmed and you notice that others are just watching it happen?
- you wonder how on earth can someone watch another human get harmed and do nothing?
- one of the reasons for this is schadenfreude

What Is Schadenfreude? From www.goodtherapy.org

Schadenfreude is a German word with no precise English equivalent. Most people experience schadenfreude from time to time; the feeling tends to occur when someone a person dislikes is threatened or experiences a setback. For example, a student might secretly delight when his or her biggest classroom competitor fails a test, and a person might take pleasure in their ex-spouse's relationship difficulties. Some slapstick comedies also utilize schadenfreude by encouraging an audience to laugh at others' injuries or humiliations. In other cases, schadenfreude can serve as misplaced empathy. We all recognize the embarrassing nature of a public fall or saying something silly, and sometimes seeing that other people make the same mistakes we do can cause some joy.

- one of the books I read this week encouraged Christians to care about those who do not know the Lord
- this book encouraged its readers to consider a logical breakdown about the need for evangelism

- 1) if we acknowledge that Jesus is the _____ way to God
- 2) and that those who do not know Jesus Christ are _____ from God
- 3) then why are many Christians not willing to share with _____ with those who do not know the Lord?

- the author equated believers in Jesus Christ who do not want to share their faith with those who stand back and do _____ while they watch someone get harmed

- let us care for the _____ state and the souls of all humans so that we could never be accused of apathy or finding enjoyment in the _____ of another

Review of Section on “New Living in Christ”

- this is the last section in Colossians relating to “New _____ in Christ” found in Colossians 3:1-4:6

3:1-4 – Paul _____ these Christians to think heavenly thoughts and to _____ their minds away from sin

3:5-11 – Paul commanded these Christians to put to _____ sin and put away sin

- they were to put to death the _____ actions and language that dishonors God

3:12-14 – Paul commanded these Christians to put on _____ characteristics

- above all they are to put on _____

3:15-17 – Paul commanded these Christians with regards to how the _____ is to function

- they are to allow the _____ of God to dwell among them, they are to worship the Lord and to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

3:18-19 Paul commanded _____ to submit to their husbands and _____ to love their wives

3:20-21- Paul commanded _____ to obey their parents and _____ not to provoke their children

3:22-4:1 Paul commanded the slaves to live _____ lives with regards to their masters and _____ to treat their slaves justly and fairly

- and now Paul closes this section on “New Living with _____” with a focus on prayer and wise living in light of evangelism

- Paul has talked a lot about the work of Christ and His _____ power but now Paul switches to how we are to _____ that transforming work of Jesus Christ

with others

- I have called this sermon “ _____ Evangelism” because only the Lord can reconcile a person back to God by the power of the Holy Spirit, so we must go to the Lord in _____ and ask Him to open the doors and _____ hearts
- only God _____, and we cannot personally save a person, but we as believers in Jesus Christ also bear responsibility to live a holy life and _____ wisely towards those who are not Christians

Outline in Brief:

1) (4:2-4) Speaking to God About People

2) (4:5-6) Speaking to People About God

1) (4:2-4) Speaking to God About People

a) Continue Steadfastly in Prayer

(4:2) Continue steadfastly in prayer,

- Paul gives a bold command to _____ in prayer
 - communication, or communion, with the Lord is not something that we just do when things are _____ for us
 - we are commanded to prioritize our time with the Lord each day and be diligent to _____ out our hearts to God and _____ to God in His word
 - _____ taught very clearly on this topic of persistent prayer in a parable in the gospel of Luke chapter 18
- Luke 18:1-8** And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not _____ 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?"

- Christian, let us be _____ to prayer!

i) Christian, let us be persistent in _____ God for His greatness

- spend some time in the _____ learning how David and the others praised God

- take time to _____ about God's grace, mercy and sovereignty and then praise God for all that He has _____

- Praise God because He _____ the universe and each one of us for His glory

ii) Christian, let us be persistent in _____ our sins

- we know that the _____ clearly declares that we are sinners and rebels against God

- how much more do we need to go before the Lord and acknowledge our _____

iii) Christian, let us be persistent in our _____ to God

- the Lord has been so gracious and _____ to us and we ought to return _____ to the Lord

iv) Christian, let us be persistent in laying our _____ before the Lord in the name of _____

- let us ask the Lord to work His greatness in our life, our _____ and in Dryden

- let us be persistent in our communion with the _____

v) Fervent and diligent

- fervent and diligent in _____ was the practice and the teaching of the early church

- just after the church received the Holy _____, the early church committed themselves to _____

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the _____.

b) Watchful and Thankful

- Paul in other letters, taught that Christians are to be _____ to prayer

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be _____ in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray _____ ceasing,

being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

- they were commanded to be " _____ "

- this word "watchful" is used many times by the Lord Jesus to describe how we ought to anticipate the 2nd _____ of Jesus Christ

- this command was also used when Jesus was in Gethsemane agonizing over His _____ upon the Cross

- what were the disciples doing when they should have been _____?

- they were _____ and not being watchful

- Jesus responds to their sleeping by saying this

Matthew 26:38-41 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and _____ with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not _____ with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and _____ that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- when Paul commands the Colossians to be _____ this means that they need to be diligent in _____, not slumbering

- they ought fervent in their prayer life and not spiritually _____

- but then Paul calls them to be watchful with _____

- _____ has already addressed the issue of thankfulness in this book many times

- Colossians 1:3 – Paul _____ God for His work among the Colossians

- God had been _____ to the Colossians and saved them, _____ them, reconciled them back to God through Jesus Christ

- all thanks and praise is to be given to _____ and Him alone

- really the celebration of Thanksgiving _____ to be celebrated every day

- why? Because the Lord has _____ us much to be thankful for!

c) An Open Door

(4:3) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word,

- now Paul gets into his own prayer _____

- he asks that a door would open for the _____ of Jesus Christ

- " _____ " can refer to a couple of things in this context

i) as Paul was in prison, he could have been asking for the opportunity to more freely _____ the gospel

ii) Paul was asking that the _____ of people would be receptive to the Lord _____ Christ

- people in their natural state, _____ from the grace of God, are _____ to the gospel of Jesus Christ
- just like Paul says that no one seeks God and no one _____ God (Romans 3:11, 18)
- we see here that _____ can open the heart of a human being to the gospel _____ God can
- this is a pure work of _____, so therefore we must _____ the God of grace to do His work in the hearts of sinful people
- I know when it comes to _____ that we often focus on things that are in our immediate attention but this prayer request ought to be something that is _____ and dear to our hearts every day
- what could be more important than someone being brought from _____ to _____ in Jesus Christ?
- the _____ of those outside Jesus Christ ought to be a serious _____ and a daily prayer item for us all
- I know that we often have our _____ on our minds and in our prayers and our _____ but we also need to branch out and think of those outside of Jesus Christ
- we ought to be laying before the Lord our _____ neighbours, co-workers and family members who are _____ without Jesus Christ

d) The Mystery of Christ is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison--

- Paul prays that a _____ could be opened to make known the mystery of the gospel
- “the mystery of Christ” is not a _____ in the sense of a murder mystery or something that we cannot know
- the mystery of Christ is the _____ of Jesus Christ which Paul has already written extensively about
- the gospel speaks about the _____ of God who hates sin and punishes sin
- the gospel reveals that all humans have _____ the law of God and are at _____ with God
- but God sends His Son to _____ us from our sin condition
- we see the gospel in the book of Colossians with the use of _____ “R” words
- Jesus Rescues, _____, Reconciles and Regenerates

i) Jesus Rescues

- Jesus _____ us from the wrath to come and the _____ of sin
- through Christ we are _____ from the consequence of our sin which is God's punishment

Colossians 1:12-13 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of _____ and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved _____,

ii) Jesus Redeems

- we as humans are _____ to sin
- this means that, apart from God, we will _____ choose to sin and live _____ the rule of sin

- but when Jesus delivers us we are brought _____ His authority and grace

Colossians 1:14 in whom we have _____, the forgiveness of sins.

- because we are redeemed by Christ, we are brought out from _____ the rule of sin and are placed under the _____ of His grace

iii) Jesus Reconciles

- our sin _____ us from God and breaks the perfect fellowship or communion that we should have with God

- but through Jesus Christ, we can be in perfect _____ with God through His work upon the cross

- Christ takes the _____ of our sin on the cross

Colossians 1:20-22 and through him to _____ to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and _____ in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

iv) Jesus Regenerates

- humans are _____ in sin but through Jesus Christ they are given the opportunity for new _____ because of Christ's work upon the cross

Colossians 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made _____ together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- Jesus' Rescue, Redemption, _____ and Regeneration, this is the mystery of Christ

- it was _____ in the Old Testament but now it has been _____ in the New Testament through the person and work of Jesus Christ

- but do you know _____ this gospel preaching has gotten Paul?

- Paul says that this gospel is the reason that he is in _____

- Paul has _____ and preached and this has created a lot of problems for him

- not only has there been imprisonments there has been attempts to _____ him

- Paul does not _____ preaching the _____ because of any death threats or any trials that might come his way

- Paul _____ to preach in spite of all of this, even if preaching lands him in _____

e) Pray to speak clearly

(4:4) that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

- Paul prays that his preaching would be _____

- now we know for many people _____ if the clearest gospel presentation was delivered to them they would still not _____ it

- but Paul _____ that what he preaches would be clear

- we ought to speak with clarity when we _____ the gospel

- many people are triggered by Jesus and His word and there are many temptations to be cowardly and be _____

- Paul _____ that Jesus would be manifested _____ through him

2) (4:5-6) Speaking to People About God

a) Through your _____

(4:5) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders,

- Paul calls for us to _____ our lives in wisdom towards those who do not _____ the Lord Jesus Christ

- sometimes, we _____ non-Christians _____ and this is exactly what we ought not to do

- the word “_____” is used several times in Colossians to speak about how a person _____ their life

- if you _____ in sin it means that you are living in sin

- if you walk in kindness it means that you _____ a person who is _____

- Paul instructs Christians to live a life _____ by God’s wisdom

- if you are living the _____ way as those who do not know Jesus then that is not living in _____
- for _____, if you are dealing with your finances the same way as those who do not know Jesus then that is not living in wisdom
- finally, if your life is no _____ than those who reject Jesus then that means you are not living in _____
- we are called to _____ for the name of Jesus Christ so let us _____ in wisdom, _____ for Jesus Christ
- let us _____ our whole lives to obedience to Jesus Christ especially as we _____ to those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ

b) By Redeeming the Time

making the best use of the time.

- some Bible versions _____ this phrase as “redeeming the time”
- this means that we make the most of every _____ to reach people
- in other words, when the Lord opens the _____ to make Jesus known we do not close that door
- I know that many people are busy, or at least claim to be busy, but we are _____ for making the most of our time to make sure people get to _____ the Lord Jesus Christ
- Jesus could come at _____ moment and we do not _____ the day or the hour
- so let us be _____ in using our time that the Lord has given us to make Jesus _____!

c) In Your Conversations

(4:6) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,

- we are to mind our _____ as well as our _____
- our conversations should be grace filled
- our conversation should also be _____, which means that we find ways to use language that _____ the greatness of God
- our conversations should be _____ the word of Lord
- this does not mean that everyone is going to think the _____ of Jesus is a great idea
- we know that _____ the gospel does create serious upset
- when Paul spoke the gospel he ended up in _____

so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- we also ought to be _____ to answer everyone
- this means that we ought to have the _____ down pat in our minds so that we can be sure we _____ what the gospel really is!

Application

1) What is the Gospel?

- since this whole section is around _____ for gospel growth and speaking the gospel we should again talk about “_____ is the gospel”
- the word gospel means _____ news
- this word was often used to communicate the good news that a _____ had been won in a battle
- the good _____, as it relates to Jesus Christ, refers to His _____ over sin
- Jesus _____, redeems, reconciles and regenerates
- all humans _____ deserve punishment because all humans have sinned against a holy

Romans 3:23 for _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 For the _____ of sin is death,

- this is why we need Christ Jesus to _____ us
- we _____ to be rescued from the consequences of our _____
- this is why we need _____
- we need redemption because sin has held us _____ and we are under its rule and _____
- but Jesus buys His people back from sin, he releases them so that they are free
- our sin has put us out of fellowship with God or out of relationship with God or _____ us from God
- Praise the Lord, because of Jesus Christ, we can be _____ back to a right relationship with God
- sin has killed us and we are _____ but thanks be to God who through Christ has made us _____ together with Him! (regenerated)

Colossians 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also _____ with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Christian make sure you _____ this gospel, make sure you understand the work of Christ so that you can share Christ's work with others
- but more importantly make sure you cherish the work of Christ every day
- if you are outside of Jesus Christ know that you need Jesus Christ
- you need Him to rescue you from sin
- you need Him to reconcile you to God
- you need Him to regenerate you and to give life to you
- come to Christ and acknowledge your _____ and the evil you have committed before a _____ God
- you can _____ mercy from God through Jesus Christ

2) Speak to God About People: Pray For Gospel Growth in Dryden

- the _____ of Paul in Colossians 4:2-4 is often neglected in the _____
 - we sometimes get too inward focused and we fail to see that there is a world that _____ saving
 - Paul after he describes this _____, and gospel living in Colossians, ends this book with the _____ that other people need this gospel too
 - because people _____ this gospel we are to pray that a " _____ " would be opened so that the " _____ of Christ", or the gospel of Christ, could be proclaimed _____
 - Paul gives similar instructions on _____ in 1 Timothy
- 1 Timothy 2:1-4** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who _____ all people to be saved and to come to the _____ of the truth.

- we cannot _____ a single person, we cannot convert them, therefore we _____ ask God to do a great work and bring about _____.

- let us _____ for God's great gospel work in the lives of the people of _____

3) Speak to People About God: Use _____ Filled Language and Wise Living

- how many times have you _____ "Christians are hypocrites"?

- or _____ many prominent Christians have been caught in gross sexual sin?

- we cannot change what has happened in the past but we can take the _____ from the Lord here and _____ it to our lives

- let us _____ our speech with graciousness

- if our language is the same as everyone else that is not speaking with _____

- let us live lives that tell of the _____ of Christ

- if our lives are the same as those around us who do not know the _____ we are not _____ in wisdom

- let us _____ what Peter says about sharing our _____ to our lives

1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts _____ Christ the Lord as holy, always being _____ to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Next Week:
Sunday May 15, 2022

Guest Speaker:
Kristopher Koebel

Representative
from OM

