

Getting To Know You

1. Have you ever had someone speak into your life or correct you on something that made a significant impact or changed the trajectory of where things were going? If so, what were the circumstances? What was the end result?
2. Do you have any Memorial Day traditions? If so, what are they?
3. E.M. Bounds said, "The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer." & "Pray and never faint, is the motto Christ gives us for praying." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Porphyrios said, "The secret is our prayer and our devotion to God so that His grace may act. We, with our love, with our fervent desire for the love of God, will attract grace so that it washes over those around us and awakens them to divine love. Or rather God will send His love and will rouse them all. What we are unable to do, His grace will achieve." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. For the second time, Paul lets the Church at Colossae know that he is praying for them. This time he predicates it with "for this reason". Why does he do this? What is he trying to communicate to them? Why is he praying without ceasing for them?

What does pray without ceasing (Gk. *Adialeiptos*) mean? What does it look like? Is this something you do? How can you begin to practice, develop, or be more intentional with this kind of pray? Who do you need to be praying like this for?

2. What potential did Paul see in Colossae? What was the gospel doing as he is writing this letter? What are the natural results of the gospel? How have you seen the gospel spread in your life?

How has the gospel produced fruit in your life? Others? In what ways has the gospel continued to spread and grow throughout the centuries? How is the gospel being spread in our community? Your sphere of influence?

What potential does God see in you? Others?

3. Paul saw their potential, but he also was aware of the problems that they were facing. What problem is he going to address? What method does Paul use with Colossae? Why is this method affective? When doing it, how important is wanting what is best for them?
4. How important is theology? Why does theology matter? If we don't have correct/sound/solid theology, what are we exposed to? How do we gain knowledge, spiritual wisdom, and understanding? Explain.

5. What should our walk look like? How do we walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to God? How does our orthodoxy (belief) affect our orthopraxy (behavior)? What are some examples of this? In what other areas of life does thought/belief lead to action/behavior? Explain.
6. As we mature, grow, and develop our walk with God, how does it impact our work? How do we bear fruit? In what ways was Paul encouraging this for the believers at Colossae?
7. How important is worship to God? What does it reveal about us? Who determines what worship should look like? Explain.

In what ways does God qualify us? Explain.

8. Why does Paul contrast light and darkness? How are transferred from darkness to light? When we are in the light, what reward do we receive?

What should our witness look like? How can you boldly proclaim Christ to others? What has He done for you? Explain.

Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?