

# Daily Worship Booklet

25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024



Colossians

**Christ  
pre-eminent**

God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law, day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy!

## **Bible Classes (Westminster Shorter Catechism)**

*Question 11:* What are God's works of providence?

*Answer:* God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

*Comment:* God rules over, preserves and sustains all creation, including all His creatures. He does this by what are called His works of providence. These are perfect actions, marked by utmost wisdom, and are powerfully ordained, arising from His holy character.

*Scripture Proofs:*

Psalm 145:17; Psalm 104:24; Hebrews 1:3; Nehemiah 9:6;  
Ephesians 1:19-22; Psalm 46:6; Proverbs 16:33; Matthew 10:30

**Psalm of the Week:** Psalm 124. The words are on page 8.

**Please pray for:**

Mon - Simon Martignago

Tues - Bob Parry

Wed - Colin and Corine, Ella, Rose, Lucy, Mabel, Hendrik  
and Beatrice Postma

Thur - Andrew and Heather, Caitlin and Catherine Quigley

Frid - Louise Rock

Dr. Tim Donachie, a retired minister in the RPC of Ireland,  
has written the notes on Colossians. (They have been lightly edited.)

***Pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.***

## **Monday – Colossians 4:4-5; Ephesians 6:10-20 - Praying for Opportunities.**

It is right and proper that Christians should pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16; 1 Timothy 2:1). One constant theme in Paul's letters is his concern for his fellow believers, especially for their growth in grace and Christian character (Colossians 1:9-12).

There is a considerable difference between the way that Paul prayed for believers and what he asked them to pray for on his behalf, which we so often experience in our own church circles. Our praying is so often materialistic that we pray for health, success in exams, good weather, and such. Not that it is wrong to pray for such things, but they are largely absent from Paul's prayers, where the emphasis is more directly spiritual.

When Paul asks for prayer for himself, it is not that he would be released from prison or that his imprisonment should be less onerous; he requests prayer that he might have opportunities to preach the gospel and that he would be given the ability to make it clear to those to whom he spoke.

Paul desired to spread the gospel of Christ. He placed no conditions on how this was to be achieved; he merely asked to be presented with an open door, whether that was the open door of the prison or the opportunity to speak to somebody about Christ.

We should also pray this for ourselves, for the minister of the Word, and for our fellow believers: not just that we will be given opportunities to witness, but that we might have the boldness to take them, and the ability to present the truth clearly and graciously.

### **Questions**

Q1. What was the focus of Paul's praying?

Q2. Who could you pray for?

### **Memory Verse**

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving."

Colossians 4:2

## **Tuesday – Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 3:8-16 - Our Words.**

There was a time in the 'Christian' West when virtually every home had a copy of the Bible, and a large percentage of the population was familiar with some of its teachings. That is no longer the case. Not only do many people have no concept whatever of Biblical truth, they do not possess, and never have possessed, a copy of the Bible. How, then, are they to be reached with the only gospel that can save them?

The apostle Paul gives us the answer in verses 5 and 6 of Colossians 4. The Christian is to 'conduct himself wisely toward outsiders' and speak to them in such a way that if the offence is taken, it will be because of the message, and not how it is presented. The only Bible that many people will read is the life of a faithful Christian believer.

When Paul tells them to 'make the most' of every opportunity, he is telling them to 'buy up' the opportunity; do not simply wait for the opportunity to come to you; go after it and search it out.

Gracious speech for the people of Paul's day was what might be called 'sparkling conversation', speech that was witty or clever. That was not Paul's meaning. He wanted the speech of believers to be free from malice or abuse, or words that would wound to no purpose. Rather, gracious speech would always be truthful and loving. That does not mean that truthful and loving words do not sometimes wound or cause offence; the sinner does not like to be reminded of his sin, nor the erring Christian of his backsliding, but the purpose of those words is to bring to repentance and to restore to the favour of God.

Words that glorify God, exalt the Lord Jesus, and show men how to please God, are 'gracious words, seasoned with salt'.

### **Questions**

Q1. What is missing in many homes today?

Q2. What words show others how to please God?

### **Memory Verse**

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

## **Wednesday – Colossians 4:1-9 – Tychicus.**

One of the marks of genuine Christianity is love for those who share 'like, precious faith'. It is amazing to read in Paul's letters that, although he was often in great discomfort and suffering extremely adverse circumstances, his concern was always for those he was writing to. So it is here in Colossians that Paul wants to send two of his companions to the church in Colossae, so that they will not be anxious about him and so that his companions can bring encouragement to the church.

Tychicus had been a faithful companion to Paul on his missionary journeys and had probably spent some time with Paul during his imprisonment in Rome. He was now responsible for taking the letter to the Colossians and probably the one to Philemon and Ephesus. (Compare Colossians 4:9 with Philemon 1:8-22; Ephesians 6:21, 22). What is significant is the way that Paul describes Tychicus? This man displayed three outstanding Christian characteristics. There is no evidence that he was a great preacher or teacher, but all professing Christians should covet a similar character:

First, he was a 'beloved brother.' Paul recognized in him one who knew the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour; he spoke like a Christian and lived like one.

Second, this godly Christian man was also willing to be a servant; no job was too small or menial for him to perform, and he faithfully served Paul, as he served his Lord.

Third, Paul also recognized that his work was no more important than Tychicus', for he considered him a '*fellow* servant' in the Lord. What greater commendation could there be than to be described as a beloved brother, faithful servant and fellow bondservant in the Lord?

### **Questions**

Q1. What three godly characteristics did Paul see in Tychicus?

Q2. Are there ways in your life in which you could exercise these godly characteristics, and if so, where?

### **Memory Verse**

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

## **Thursday – Colossians 4:9; Philemon 1:1-25 – Onesimus.**

The one whom Paul sent with Tychicus to Colossae was no stranger to at least some of the people in Colossae. His story is told in one of the other letters the two men would carry. Onesimus, whose name means 'useful', had been a slave of Philemon, a man who had come to faith in Christ, probably through the ministry of Paul himself. Unlike his name, Onesimus had been anything but useful to his master. He had stolen from his master and had run away to Rome. In the remarkable providence of God, in the city known for its depravity and vice, this runaway slave came face to face not only with the apostle Paul but, more importantly, with Paul's master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, Paul wants to send him back to Philemon, no longer as a worthless, untrustworthy, and dishonest slave, but as a faithful and beloved brother in Christ. In the letter Paul sends to Philemon, he tells him of just how useful Onesimus has become to him. Indeed, Paul would have loved to have kept Onesimus with him, but believed that it was the right thing to do to send him back to his master.

There are two wonderful lessons in this incident:

1. The gospel has the power to change all sorts and conditions of men. No one is beyond the Lord's transforming power. This gives great encouragement to go to men and women with the gospel.

2. The gospel can bind all classes and conditions of men into a loving brotherhood. There could scarcely be a bigger gulf between a runaway slave and the master from whom he had stolen and fled, and yet these two are now united in the bonds of Christ (Philemon v.16).

### **Questions**

Q1. What does the Onesimus name mean? Had he been useful to his master Philemon? How had his life changed?

Q2. What two lessons can we take from Onesimus' life?

### **Memory Verse**

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

## **Friday – Colossians 4:1-14 – Encouragement.**

Several people were with Paul during his imprisonment who wished to join him in sending greetings to the church in Colossae. They are, of course, all individuals with their own characteristics, but they can be grouped together to illustrate certain values:

The first three, Aristarchus, Mark, and Jesus, who was called Justus, could be described as 'gracious comforters'. All three were Jews and companions with Paul in his journeys. More is known of Aristarchus and Mark than of Justus. Aristarchus came from Thessalonica, suffered at the hands of the mob in Ephesus (Acts 19:29) and travelled widely with Paul (Acts 20:4, 27:2). Mark was the writer of the second gospel, the cousin of Barnabas, a man who had failed (Acts 15:36-41), but had been restored, and was very dear to the heart of Paul (2 Timothy 4:11). The little that is said about Justus is the best thing that could be said about any believer; he was righteous.

These three men were the only Jewish Christians in Rome who stood with Paul and helped him in his ministry and evangelization. It was perhaps a source of disappointment to Paul that so few of his 'kinsmen after the flesh' had come to faith in the city of Rome. The contribution that they made to Paul's ministry was significant and is described as bringing encouragement to the apostles. There was so much in the life and ministry of Paul that could have been discouraging; he was persecuted, beaten, mocked, shipwrecked, imprisoned, and generally given a hard time. How important, therefore, were those faithful brethren who remained with Paul through all his trials and encouraged him in the Lord. It is difficult to estimate the good that is done for the kingdom of God by those who encourage their fellow believers.

### **Questions**

Q1. How did the three men named help Paul?

Q2. How can you encourage others?

### **Memory Verse**

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”

Colossians 4:2

## Psalm 124

1. "Unless the LORD had been there on our side!"

Let Israel now testify to this:

"Unless the LORD had been there on our side  
When cruel men against us rose to strive,  
They would indeed have swallowed us alive."

2. "And when against us they with anger burned,  
Swept by fierce waters, we would all have drowned;  
Swift streams engulfing, torrents pulling down,  
Floodwaters raging with their mighty waves  
Would then have dragged us down as to the grave."

3. Blessed be the LORD who snatched us from their teeth!  
For, as a bird would from its trapper flee,  
Our snare is torn and from it we are free!  
Yes, in the LORD's name is our only aid,  
By whom the heavens and the earth were made.