



SERMON NOTES

DEEPLY ROOTED TOGETHER

Final Instructions

Colossians 4:2-18

How we reflect Christ:

- Devoting ourselves to prayer (v. 2-4)
- Being watchful (v. 2)
- Being thankful (v. 2)
- Being wise (v. 5)
- Being full of grace (v. 6)

How we respect others:

- Seeking unity within the church (v. 7)
- By addressing and reconciling sin (v. 9)
- By championing diversity (v. 11)
- Being willing to work through tension (v. 12-13)
- Having men and women working, serving, and leading together (v. 15)
- By submitting to authority (v. 17)

Application:

- Love like Jesus & live counter culturally
- Embrace diversity & listen well
- Engage in discipleship
- Live a life of prayer

DEEPLY ROOTED TOGETHER

WEEK TWELVE: COLOSSIANS 4:2-18

Description for Series

Your view of Jesus Christ will impact every area of your life. These past months have revealed, more than ever, that we need to remain strong in our faith. Today, as in the Colossian church, there are doctrines and theological perspectives that can lead to wrong thinking about who Jesus is. Paul addresses the heresies by reminding the believers in Colossae of the centrality of Christ. Believers have died with Christ; therefore, we need to die to our sins. We have also been raised with Christ; therefore, we must live well in him and put on qualities that are motivated by Christian love. And because he is Lord over all, the life of the Christian is a life of submission to Jesus. This study will cause us to think about if we are following Jesus as we should. Our faith in Jesus Christ should transform the relationships we have in every area of our lives—in our homes, our churches, and our world.

The devotional guide will continue the same rhythm that we used for the last devotional guides where we practiced the 3 x 20 pattern. Spend at least 20 minutes, 3 times a week, in God's word. Each of the three days you will be asked to implement the **Read. Reflect. Respond.** pattern to help get more deeply into God's word.

We have reached the end of our Colossians study. It's not hard to imagine that Paul wrestled with his concluding thoughts and that he carefully chose how he wanted to end his letter. So, how does he conclude? He closes by reminding us that God gave us a mission (4:2-6) and a community (4:7-17).

Scripture Guide

During this sermon series we are going to pray through specific passages in Colossians as we learn about our own identity and being "deeply rooted together." There is a Scripture Guide available on Sunday at the Hub or on hfcinfo.com.

The prayer focus for this week is Colossians 4:2-6, *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*

Below is an example of how to pray the Bible for yourself and the Hershey Free family.

"Father, give me diligence through the help of your Spirit to pray more intentionally. May my prayers include a sense of urgency in how to use my time and be filled with a thankful attitude. I pray for myself and the Hershey Free family to clearly proclaim the message of God's kingdom so that others may know the glorious truth of the gospel as revealed in Jesus. May my words be filled with grace and truth in all my conversations. Amen."

DAY ONE

Read Colossians 4:2-6. Paul started his letter to the Colossians with a prayer and also ends with one. These bookends show Paul's priorities of prayer, mission, and community.

- What words does Paul use to describe an effective way to pray? Of the three, which do you believe you do best right now? With which one do you struggle?
- Why does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for him?
- How would you define the mystery of Christ?

Reflect on the way you pray. Would you consider your prayers to be kingdom-minded, heart-focused, God-centered, and others-oriented?

Respond by creating a plan about how you can grow in prayer this week. Maybe that's committing to spending more time in prayer or taking time to pray the passage from Colossians for yourself and your family. One other idea would be to start a prayer journal. Choose one way to be more intentional in your prayer life.

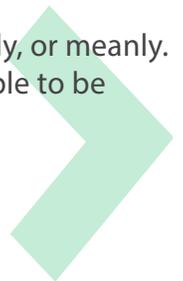
DAY TWO

Read the passage again.

- What does it mean to proclaim the gospel clearly?
- Why is it so important that we live wisely? Why does Paul want us to make the most of every opportunity? How does this statement relate to the way we live in light of eternity?

Reflect on the way you speak to others. Is your speech seasoned with "salt" in a way that encourages and builds up? Or are you tempted to be "salty" in a way that is biting, critical, or sarcastic? Pray that you would have awareness regarding your speech.

Respond by writing down the names of people to whom you have spoken unkindly, sharply, or meanly. Pray that you would have the humility and courage to ask for forgiveness so that you are able to be affirming in the relationship.



DAY THREE

Read Colossians 4:7-17. These verses remind us that we are “Deeply Rooted Together,” which is the phrase that was the focus of our sermon series.

- How do these verses remind us of the importance and diversity of community?
- As you read the names of the people, did you resonate with any of them as you thought of your role in the church community?

Reflect on how you contribute to the church body. Are there ways you could be more active? Ways that you could better use your gifts?

Respond by thanking the Lord for your gifts and abilities. If you’re struggling to identify those gifts, talk to a friend or family member about the gifts they see in you.

Also, since this the end of our study in Colossians, take time to write down some personal takeaways from the book.

SMALL GROUP & FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

One of the key elements in the concluding words of Paul is the importance of community. He mentions a number of people, some who had major roles in spreading the gospel and some whose roles were not as great. As you ponder this section of scripture, think of ways you encourage the gifts and abilities that you see in your family and in the members of your small group. Take time to affirm those gifts in one another.

1. Pastor Nick mentioned 5 ways that we can reflect Christ (as mentioned by Paul). Read Colossians 4:2-6 and share how your life reflects Christ in alignment with the things mentioned in those verses.
2. Pastor Nick mentioned that Paul’s conclusion in Colossians reveals how deeply he respected other believers. How would you define respect within the church? How do you personally show respect toward others, even if or when you don’t agree with them?
3. These verses reveal how deeply Paul felt about community. How deeply do you value biblical community and invest in it?
4. What do these verses show about the importance that Paul places on living the mission of God?