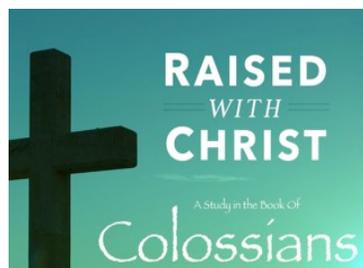


“Raised with Christ!”



Part 9: “A ‘season’ of prayer, thanksgiving and witness!”

Colossians 4:2-6

Introduction: As believers, as followers of Christ, we live in this world as “aliens and strangers” ... as ambassadors of a kingdom the world cannot see and of a King the world does not know!!

In order to “*continue*,” to “*keep on keeping on*,” you need a world view that stretches beyond your own life and what affects you.

The cause of Christ is advanced through the prayers and testimony of His people!

Prayer matters because it gets you focused on the things of God and prepares you to be engaged in what He is doing in the world.

I. Believers must remain connected to God through prayer: Verse 2 ...

Verse 2: “Continue *steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving*.”

Colossians 1:21-23: “... if indeed you continue in the faith ... not shifting from the hope of the Gospel that you heard” (vs. 23).

PRAYER is your most vital and necessary connection with Christ (Matthew 26:41).

Being “*watchful in prayer with thanksgiving*” keeps your attention on things above, where Christ is, seated at the Father’s right hand.

You need to hear these words in order to expand your world view and to be reminded that CHRIST is at the center!!

You cannot “continue” in something that you never started!

Don’t give in to the temptation to live in this small little world where YOU are at the center.

II. Believers must have concern for the ongoing ministry of Christ in and through the Church, His Body: Verses 3-4 ...

Colossians 1:5-6: “*Of this you have heard in ... the Gospel ... as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing ...*”

If you have been “*raised with Christ*” this is your identity, your purpose in life, your reason for being!!!!

God revealed that through the Gospel of Jesus Christ He was fulfilling His promise to Abraham that in his “Seed” all nations on the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

God has a “*remnant*.” It is not the size of the remnant that matters but the faithfulness of those whom God has called to be HIS!!

Paul urges the Colossians to pray for him and for others who had been sent out by the Church to proclaim the Gospel.

The visible church, then as now, had strayed from the truth of the Gospel and replaced it with a message of works and not of grace.

Your “*world view*” needs to be big enough to include all that God is doing through the true Church, His people, all over the world.

III. Believers must be aware of the use of time to influence others: Verses 5-6 ...

Verse 5: “*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time*.”

“*Wisdom*” is a gift from God that comes to those who ask. (James 1:5).

Verse 6: “*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*”

The cause of Christ is advanced through the prayers and testimony of His people!

The time is short! NOW is “*the day of salvation*” (II Corinthians 6:2).