

COLOSSIANS

ABOVE ALL



COLOSSIANS: ABOVE ALL

Paul writes to the church at Colossae to show that Jesus Christ is greater than Caesar and what they already have in Christ Jesus is sufficient and supreme. Jesus truly is above all other rulers. His kingdom reign is above all governments. His work is above all other accomplishments. And all who are in Christ can live a life above all that the world offers. And that greater life can be experienced and expressed in everything we do, everywhere, every day.

PART 10: PRAYER & SHARE

Read the text: Colossians 4:2-6

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

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

Paul finishes his letter to the Colossian church with an exhortation to both dependent prayer and faithful witness. Because of their union with Christ, they are able to go to God through prayer and trust that God will receive them. Paul asks that they pray specifically for him in his imprisonment, that he would still be able to proclaim the Gospel while in prison. He then encourages them to live in such a way that non-Christians are asking questions about their unique and faithful life, especially in their speech, and they are ready to give an answer that proclaims the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. When have you felt completely dependent on God, as if your only hope was for Him to act? What was prayer like during that time?
2. What kind of prayer do you most often engage in? (Intercession for others, requests for yourself, listening prayer, thanksgiving, etc.) All of these are wonderful ways to pray and God loves when we approach Him with any of these. With that said, why do you think that's your most common type of prayer you pray? Be curious without falling into guilt or shame about that.
3. What are rhythms of prayer that work well in your life right now? Where would you like to grow? Be specific and tangible.
4. Gracious speech, seasoned with salt, among your non-Christian friends and co-workers will create questions for them about you. And these questions will open up opportunities to share Jesus. This kind of speech doesn't mean you're always walking around talking about Jesus. But it does mean your life and speech looks different and causes them to wonder about you. Picture a group of non-Christians you spend time with. What do you think that kind of life and speech tangibly might look like?
5. Paul's exhortation to "walk in wisdom towards outsiders" implies that the Colossian Christians are spending time with

non-Christians in their normal life. They aren't living in a vacuum. What are some ways you can build friendships with non-Christians in your life this summer? What are some tangible steps you want to take this summer?