

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 1st January 2023
Sermon Title: A Prayer
Bible Passage: Colossians 1: 9 - 14

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- Highlight the key verses, repeated phrases or words from this passage.
- Write down the main idea of Paul's prayer for the Colossians.

Recapping the Preach

Stu began by asking, 'What stands out from Paul's life' and suggested perhaps his tenacity, grasp of the gospel, his passion for the Lord and his prayer life.

- Read Philippians 4:9 - what example from Paul's life stands out / challenges you?
- Stu suggested that 'to pray is to stand in the life-giving and glorious presence of the Almighty and petition Him on behalf of others'. Do you agree / disagree? What stands out to you from this statement?

Stu pointed out that Paul never lost the wonder and privilege that it is to pray. This is seen clearly in both Acts, where we see the Apostle praying and in his letters, where we hear the content of Paul's prayers. Stu suggested that Paul was persistent and consistent in his prayer as well as meticulous and focused.

- Paul said he had not stopped praying for the Colossians and gives us the content of the prayer. Why do you think he persistently pray this prayer for a church he had never met?
- Why do you think Paul prays that the Colossians be filled with the knowledge of God's will? What specific problem in Colossae was he addressing in his prayer?
- Drawing from Scripture, how would you explain God's will to someone (vs.9)?

Stu pointed out that Paul's prayer had a focus: that the Colossians would live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way. Paul then gave four specific examples of what this might look like in vs.10-11.

- What are the four points that describe a 'life worthy of the Lord' in vs.10-11? Which of these stands out to you?
- How can we grow in a knowledge of God? What are the things that hinder this?
- Why do we need to be strengthened with all power so that we might have endurance and patience?

Verse 12b - 14 describes what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

- Make a list of the things God has done for us?
- Why should this cause us to joyfully give thanks?

Stu closed by asking the question: how are we doing in regards to standing in the life-giving and glorious presence of the Almighty to petition Him on behalf of others. Maybe this New Years Day provides the opportunity for us to draw a line in the sand, repent and seek God for renewed passion for prayer.

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Is there anything that needs pruning in your life, in order to enable you to devote more time to prayer?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Commit the New Year to the Lord in prayer.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>