

# PRAYER: OUR WARTIME WALKIE-TALKIE

## COLOSSIANS 4:2-18

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – APRIL 13, 2025

---

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Colossians 4:2-18*

*Further Instructions*

*2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 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— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

*5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

*Final Greetings*

*7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.*

*10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”*

*18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.*

#### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Take a look back at your typical prayers. Using the questions “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “why” as a general guide, how would you describe those prayers?

#### SERMON RECAP

As followers of Jesus, we are in a spiritual battle every day - not just for our lives, but also for the lives of people around us who are on a road that leads to everlasting suffering. And, as infantry on the ground, God has given us a method of communication with Him, to be in contact with Him as our Commander. That communication method is called *prayer*.

- Talk to God about people.
- Talk to people about God.
- Jesus removes barriers between us.
- Jesus heals brokenness between us.
- We all need brothers and sisters like this in our lives.
- We all need to be brothers and sisters like this in others' lives.
- Every person matters in God's kingdom.
- Every single moment has the potential to bring about everlasting fruit.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Observation:** *What does the passage say?*

1. Read Colossians 4:2-18 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
  - What two commands did the Apostle Paul issue in today's passage? (Col 4:2, 5)
  - What commands about prayer did the Apostle Paul offer the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae? (Col 4:2-4)

- What commands about their relations with ‘outsiders’ did he offer them? (Col 4:5-6)
  - In today’s passage, who did Paul specifically identify as his associates and/or fellow workers? (Col 4:7-17)
2. How would you explain or summarize today’s passage in your own words?

**Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. In Col 4:2 and 5, the Apostle Paul told the faithful believers in Christ at Colossae to “Continue steadfastly in prayer ...” and “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, ...”. In the overall context of the book of Colossians, what enables followers of Jesus to do these things? (Col 1:2, 9, 15-20, 2:1-4, 3:1-5, 16, 4:18c)
2. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today’s passage?

**Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?**

1. What encourages you to pray? What discourages you from praying? How might the things that enable followers of Jesus to continue steadfastly in prayer spur your heart and, therefore, your prayers on to maturity, in and through Christ?
2. Consider your typical interactions with others. What heart posture normally governs your involvement in those interactions? What are the ultimate motivations in your heart that drive and shape those interactions? How might the things that enable followers of Jesus to walk in wisdom spur your heart and, therefore, your interactions on to maturity, in and through Christ?
3. Followers of Jesus are in a spiritual battle every day, for our lives and for the lives of people around us. Prayer is one of our spiritual armaments (cf. Eph 6:18). This week, as we approach Easter Sunday, how might you specifically devote yourself to this privilege of prayer – steadfastly, watchfully, lovingly, and thankfully - on behalf of others in an eternity-focused, eternally-significant way?
4. Every moment has the potential to bring about everlasting fruit, in your life and the lives of those with whom you interact. Going forward, how might you intentionally and specifically adjust your heart posture and ultimate motivations toward others, walking in wisdom in the LORD, so that your interactions might yield eternal life and everlasting fruit?
5. Who can you invite to come to church next Sunday who does not know Jesus? How will you intentionally invite them to come?

## LEADER NOTES

**EASTER SUNDAY** | Join us on Easter Sunday, April 20! For service times, volunteer needs, and more information visit [mcleanbible.org/easter](http://mcleanbible.org/easter). On Good Friday, April 18, all locations are invited to join us at 7 pm at MBC Tysons.

**VOLUNTEER AT KINDGOM ADVENTURE WEEK** | Kid’s Quest and Access are hosting a Bible day camp for children of all abilities and they need your help to bring the fun this summer! Volunteer needs include serving as room leaders or inclusion buddies for students with special needs. Day camp will run June 24-28 from 10 am-3 pm at MBC Tysons. Sign up to serve [HERE](#) or contact [Caleb Barnhart](#) for more information.

