

Colossians: Week Eight

Have the group read **Colossians 4:1-18** prior to coming to small group. Ask them to take notes on what they see in this passage and to read it over and over again before coming. The goal of this week is focused on our relationship with one another and how we should live out our faith.

Opening

If you had one last opportunity to speak to your friends via email or Myspace what would be some of the things that you would tell them?

Discussion

What does it really mean to devote yourself in prayer and to keep alert in it? What does this look like in real life?

Why do you think Paul made this statement to the Colossians in light of what you have already studied?

What does it mean to conduct yourself with wisdom toward outsiders and to make the most of every opportunity?

How can you make sure that your speech is full of grace? How does this relate to that you act towards outsiders?

How can we stand perfect or mature and fully assured in the will of God (v. 12)?

What do you learn about the importance of being in community with other believers from chapter 4?

What challenge can we take from Paul's exhortation to Archipus in v. 17?

Application

What are some practical ways that you can work on conducting yourself with wisdom around non-believers and have grace filled speech?

What can you do to more devoted to prayer in your life?

What ministry has God called you to? What are you going to do to make sure that you complete it?

What do you need to do to make and build the type of relationships evidenced in chapter 4?

Conclusion

Paul wraps up his letter to the Colossians with some last challenges and encouragement. He is not sure that he will ever see these people. He let's them know that they need to be in prayer always for one another, for the advancement of the gospel, and for themselves.

Paul also wanted to make sure that they were living lifestyles that would draw others to the gospel and not turn them away. He encouraged the Colossians to be a light to the world and live Christ-like lives always.

It is very clear from this chapter that Paul valued community greatly. He knew that the Christian life was not meant to be lived alone, but that the gospel demanded that we live in community with one another. We as believers need to make every effort to build these same types of relationships so that we might encourage each other to press on and be all that Jesus wants us to be, fulfilling the plan and mission that he has given each one of us.

Live a life worthy of the Lord and let your life be a constant "last words" to your friends and family as to what is really important to you.

Prayer

Pray that God would give you a passion for prayer. Ask him to help you to develop your prayer life more. Pray that God would provide and sustain the strong relationships with other believers that he desires you have. Pray that he would empower you to live out the ministry and calling that he has for you as you seek to follow his will for your life.