

Weekly Reflection

During this season, our focus continues to be on **listening** well as God's people. This involves listening to God through his Word and Spirit, listening to each other within our church community, and listening to our neighbors who aren't part of our church community. Right now we are especially focusing on that first piece of listening to God in his Word. As part of this we have been reading together from the books of Ephesians and Colossians. At the right are texts to read from Colossians for Monday-Friday this week, as well as some questions to go along with these readings to help us listen and reflect on what God is saying to us in his Word.

As followers of Christ, we are (or should) always be thinking about how we are relating and communicating to those in our community who aren't followers of Christ. If God's mission is to redeem all those he's called and restore all that he's created, we can't join him in this mission unless we are connecting with those needing to know God's redemption and restoration. But how do we make these connections? And how do we relate and speak to these neighbors in our lives?

As you read through Colossians this week, take special note of Colossians 4:2-6. Paul encourages the believers to be in prayer, but then moves to encouraging them to be a certain way toward outsiders. These relationships require wisdom to make the most of the opportunities God gives to us. They also require grace, which people need to experience in the way we relate to them. It is no mistake that prayer is so closely linked to this concern about connecting to outsiders. As we think about people in our lives and community who God is giving us the opportunity to connect with, we need to be in prayer. We need to pray for God's Spirit to go before us in these relationships. We need to pray for wisdom as we have conversations. We need to pray for the grace of Christ to flow through us. We need to pray that God will give us these opportunities to join his mission, and to empower us to make the most of these opportunities for his glory.

Scripture

Monday:

[Colossians 3:1-11](#)

Are there things in the life of the church that need repenting?

Tuesday:

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

Is there forgiveness and grace that needs to be offered to those in our church?

Wednesday:

[Colossians 3:18-4:1](#)

How can we center ourselves to serve the Lord alone?

Thursday:

[Colossians 4:2-6](#)

How does prayer shape our interactions with those around us?

Friday:

[Colossians 4:7-18](#)

Paul ends with a command to complete the ministry of the Lord...How can we keep this same mission in front of us?

Weekly Activity

At the close of Colossians, Paul sends greetings from other believers, and compliments these people as he does so.

Make an effort to compliment a fellow brother or sister to someone else this week.



Memory Verse

[Revelation 21:5](#)

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"
Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."



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