

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. All through the book of Colossians emphasis is placed on putting Jesus at the center of our lives. He is our everything!
2. The last chapter turns our attention to the relationships that we enjoy as brethren who live Christ-centered lives.

I. COMMON CONSIDERATION

- A. We are a strong family when we consider one another.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 4.2:** *“Continue earnestly in prayer”* Give full diligence to spending time with God in prayer.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 4.2:** *“being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”* Literally, be aware of prayer. (cf. Col. 1.3)
- B. How are we to pray for one another?
 1. **COLOSSIANS 4.3,4:** *“that God would open a door for the Word, to speak the mystery of Christ.”*
 2. Talking about Jesus is easy. Talking to those who may be antagonistic is hard. (Acts 4.29; Eph. 6.19)

II. COMMON CAUSE

- A. We approach personal evangelism by the way we live.
 1. Jesus spoke of a cause that we all share. (Luke 19.10)
 2. **COLOSSIANS 4.5:** *“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside.”* (cf. Eph. 5.15; cf. 1 Cor. 5.10)
 3. **COLOSSIANS 4.5:** *“redeeming the time.”*
- B. We approach personal evangelism by the way we talk.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 4.6:** *“Let your speech always be with grace.”* Speak with mercy, love, and kindness.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 4.6:** *“seasoned with salt.”* Preserved.

III. COMMON CONNECTION

- A. We are a strong family because share a common bond.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 4.10:** *“Aristarchus, your fellow prisoner...”*. *If Mark comes, “welcome him.”*
 2. Welcomed in spite of their differences. (Acts 15:37,38)
- B. What we share is stronger than our differences. (Gal. 3.28,29; Rom. 3.22-24; Jude 3; Titus 1.4)

CONCLUSION: Nothing is more important than family!

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

August 14, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

WHAT MAKES ABRAHAM SO SPECIAL?

He is the father of the Israelite nation. God told Abraham that *“I will make you a great nation”* (Gen. 12.2). In a sense, he is also the father of the church. God also promised Abraham that *“in your seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed”* (Acts 3.25). The Holy Spirit tells us today that *“if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed”* (Gal. 3.29).

What makes Abraham so special that God would choose him to be the father of nations and the fountainhead of the lineage of Christ? The answer to that question is found in James 2.23. In this passage, the inspired word says that *“he was called the friend of God.”* If you back up to the beginning of the verse, you will see why. It says that *“Abraham believed God.”*

Throughout the life of Abraham, we are constantly told about his faith. When God promised him a son in his old age, *“he believed in the Lord”* (Gen. 15.6). Paul writes that Abraham *“contrary to hope, in hope believed.”* He was not *“weak in faith”* (Rom. 4.19) Abraham did not *“waver at the promise of God”* (Rom. 4.20).

I find that amazing. Even the disciples who were with Jesus struggled with faith (Matt. 14.31). But Abraham had faith even when what he believed in seemed impossible. We know that *“without faith, it is impossible to please God”* (Heb. 11.4). So let us all aspire to have the faith of Abraham (Rom. 4.12). CLP

SITTING DOWN WITH ABRAHAM

MATTHEW 8:11

INTRODUCTION:

1. The memory of Abraham Lincoln takes us back in time.
2. Thinking about the Abraham of the Bible propels us forward.
3. **MATTHEW 8:11:** *“And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...”*

I. UNRAVELING THE TEXT

- A. There is a contextual setting.
 1. This is just after the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt. 8.1)
 2. Jesus heals a leper. (Matt. 8.3; cf. Mark 1.41)
- B. There is a geological setting.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:5:** *“Jesus had entered Capernaum”*
 2. Jesus spent most of His time in Capernaum. (John 6.24)
- C. There is a social setting.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:5:** *“a centurion came to Him.”*
 2. Jews and Gentiles did not socialize. (Gal. 2.12)
- D. There is an emotional setting.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:5,6:** *“pleading with Him saying, ‘Lord...’*
 2. **MATTHEW 8:6:** *“Lord, my servant is lying at home...”*

II. OUR FUTURE HOME IN HEAVEN

- A. Heaven is available to everyone.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:11:** *“And I say to you that many will come from east and west,”* (cf. Matt. 7.14)
 2. Heaven is available to all. (Heb. 2.9; 1 Tim. 1.15)
- B. Heaven will be a place of rest.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:11:** *“and sit down”*
 2. A Christian life is an active life. (Col. 1.10; Eph. 2.10)
 3. When does a Christian retire? (Rev. 14.13; Heb. 4.9,10)
- C. Heaven will be occupied by wonderful people.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:11:** *“Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”*
 2. With those who have preceded us. (1 Thess. 4.14,17)
- D. Heaven will be a kingdom. (Matt. 8.11)
- E. Heaven will be a place for the faithful.
 1. **MATTHEW 8:10:** *“I have not found such great faith”*
 2. **MATTHEW 8:12:** *“cast out into outer darkness”*

CONCLUSION: Are you a person of faith?

IMITATING THE LIFE OF JESUS

How do we know the kind of life that we are to live? It is true that the Bible is the source that directs our lives. In Romans 8, the Holy Spirit is used in reference to the word of God (Rom. 8.2). In this passage, we are told to walk according to the Spirit (Rom. 8.1). We are to *“live according to the Spirit”* (Rom. 8.5). The way we think is to be in line with the Spirit (Rom. 8.6). Everything in our lives is to be governed by the teaches of the Spirit, the Bible.

In many ways, something is easier to do when we can see a demonstration of it. It isn't enough just to be told to live a certain way. We need to see an example of how to do it. For this reason, we are frequently told to set a good example. Elders are told to lead by *“being examples to the flock”* (1 Pet. 5.3). Preachers are to be *“an example to the believers”* (1 Tim. 4.12). Brethren are to *“walk in wisdom toward those who are outside”* (Col. 4.5; cf. Phil. 2.14-16). Paul told the Philippians to *“join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern”* (Phil. 3.17).

The greatest example of how to live a life that is pleasing to God is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. In 1 John 3, we are told about the hope of eternal life. One day, we will be given a different body. It will be a spiritual body, and it will be the same body that Jesus has (1 John 3.1,2). To have this hope of eternal life, the Holy Spirit tells that we are to purify ourselves *“just as He is pure.”* You and I are live pure lives just as Jesus lived a pure life. We can keep ourselves pure by allowing the teachings of scripture to guide our lives. And we can see exactly how to follow the scriptures by looking to the example of Jesus.

In a display of humble service, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He then said, *“I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you”* (John 13.15). Later in the chapter, Jesus tells His disciples to *“love one another; as I have loved you”* (John 13.34). Peter set Jesus in front of us as an example of how to handle suffering *“because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow in His footsteps”* (1 Pet. 2.21).

Imitating the example of Jesus begins by having a proper mindset. Philippians 2.5 tells us to *“let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”* We will never live the kind of life that Jesus lived until we first think the way Jesus thought. If we can think like Jesus thinks and live like Him, we can live pure lives and have the hope of heaven.

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