

*Pray, Live & Speak: Don't Waste Your Life*

Colossians 4:2-18

October 26, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

**I. Introduction**

**A. Children's Sermon:** What Would be a Perfect Day?

**B. Don't Waste Your Life...**

"Christians are never anywhere by divine accident. There are reasons for why we wind up where we do. Consider what Jesus said about painful, unplanned circumstances: "They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness" (Luke 21:12-13). So it is with cancer. This will be an opportunity to bear witness. Christ is infinitely worthy. Here is a golden opportunity" <sup>1</sup>

"I'm starting to learn that, whether in Mongolia or Tennessee, the kind of "giving my life away" that counts starts with how I get up on a gray Tuesday morning. It never sells books. It won't be remembered. But it's what makes a life." <sup>2</sup>

1 Beware Man-Made Religion

2. Building a Life *with* Jesus: Holiness

**Colossians 3:11b, 17**

...Christ is all, and in all. ...

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**...

**Key Idea**

*A well spent life earnestly seeks the glory of Christ.*

**II. Final Greetings: Some Quick Observations**

**A. Tychicus <sup>3</sup> & Onesimus [Philemon] (7-9)**

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<sup>1</sup> **Piper, John** (2011-01-27). Don't Waste Your Cancer (Kindle Locations 158-161). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> **Horton, Michael S.** (2014-10-07). *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World* (pp. 20-21). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> "Tychicus makes his first appearance in the New Testament as a Christian from the Province of Asia who accompanied Paul on his trip to Jerusalem to deliver the "collection" (Acts 20:4). In addition to Ephesians 6:21 and Colossians 4:7, he is also mentioned in Titus

- B. Mark & Justus - "the circumcision" (10b-11)
- C. Epaphras (12-13)
- D. Luke "beloved physician" (14)

### III. Pray, Live & Speak

#### A. Toiling in Prayer

#### Colossians 4:2

<sup>2</sup> **Continue steadfastly in prayer**, *being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

1. Continual prayer
2. For spiritual protection & growth

#### Colossians 1:9–10

<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, **we have not ceased to pray for you**, asking that *you may be filled with the knowledge of his will* in all *spiritual wisdom and understanding*, <sup>10</sup> **so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, fully *pleasing to him*, bearing fruit in every good work and *increasing in the knowledge of God*.

3. With thanksgiving...

#### Colossians 1:11–14

<sup>11</sup> May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup> **giving thanks to the Father**, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

#### Colossians 2:6–7

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so walk in him*, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, ***abounding in thanksgiving.***

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3:12 (Paul is sending him from his place of writing [Nicopolis?] to Titus on Crete) and 2 Timothy 4:12 (Paul has sent him to Ephesus)." Moo, Douglas J. (2008-08-25). The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon (Pillar New Testament Commentary) (Kindle Locations 6243-6246). Eerdmans Publishing Co - A. Kindle Edition.

## Colossians 3:15, 17

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. ***And be thankful.***

<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, ***giving thanks*** to God the Father through him.

### 4. Prayer is work

## Colossians 1:28–2:3

<sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> For this ***I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.***

<sup>1</sup> For I want you to know **how great a struggle I have for you** and for those at Laodicea and **for all who have not seen me face to face,** <sup>2</sup> that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

## Acts 6:4

<sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to **prayer** and to the ***ministry of the word.***"

## Colossians 4:12–13

<sup>12</sup> **Epaphras**, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, **greet**s you, always struggling [contend for the prize] on your behalf **in his prayers**, that **you may stand** mature and **[be] fully assured/filled** in *all the will of God*. <sup>13</sup> For **I bear him witness** that **he has worked hard** [much zeal - MT] for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

### 3. Pray for the word

## Colossians 4:3–4

<sup>3</sup> At the same time, ***praying*** 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 have been bound]—  
<sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear, which is how **I ought to speak**.

### **Ephesians 6:17–20**

<sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> **praying at all times** in the Spirit, **with all prayer and supplication**. To that end *keep alert* with all *perseverance*, making supplication *for all the saints*, <sup>19</sup> and also *for me*, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth *boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel*, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador *in chains*, that *I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak*.

### B. Live & Speak (Unavoidable Witness)

#### **Colossians 4:5–6**

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

“The extraordinary weekend retreat was memorable, but **it’s those ordinary moments** filled with seemingly insignificant decisions, conversations, and touches that matter most. This is where most of life is lived. [emphasis mine] <sup>4</sup>

#### **Key Idea**

*A well spent life earnestly seeks the glory of Christ in daily prayer, words and deeds.*

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<sup>4</sup> Horton, Michael S. (2014-10-07). *Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World* (pp. 20-21). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.