

Sermon: 'Join God on Mission' (Pt 2) Colossians 4:2-6 (Part 16)

IN Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. What would matter most for you if you had 10 minutes left to live?
2. Tell about a time when you could have been accused of being a hypocrite.

UP Time that is devoted to the Word of God

1. Pastor Henry talked about the impact of being the person who is passionate about introducing people to Jesus and who is praying for open doors to walk through?
<https://www.cschurch.ca/sermons/colossians/joining-god-on-mission/>
In what ways do 1 Timothy 2:3-4 help us understand what this means?
2. Explain the nature of 'calling' in regards to occupation and vocation.
How do these concepts fit Paul's instruction to 'be wise' and 'let your conversation be always full of grace...' (Col 4:5, 6)? What did he also believe about the Christ-follower's life situation (given in his sermon Acts 17:26-27)?
3. What additional prompts about joining in God's mission does Jesus give in Matthew 5:13-14 and Mt 12:34?
4. Paul described his own verbal witness in 1 Cor 2:1-5. He also wrote Romans 10:14. What is Paul saying? What do these verses mean to the Christ-follower about joining God on Mission?
5. Take time to read Colossians 4:7-18.
Who was on Paul's 'team'?
How do we know the 'team' was important to him?

OUT Seek to be the Community of God's people in your community

1. Where has God placed you in His Mission? (work; family; friends; neighbourhood; volunteering; etc)
How are you doing? What help can your 'team' give you?
What help can you give your 'team members'?
2. Challenge: Meditate/journal on Matthew 5:13-16. How will you live out these declarations (...'you are'...!)?
3. How can the group pray for you?

UP – IN – OUT reflect a balanced life including a focus on our personal relationship with the Father (UP), staying connected to the Body (IN), and reaching our world (OUT).

THE WORD (NIV)

Colossians 4:2-6

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 12:34

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Acts 17:26-27

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Romans 10:14

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Sermon Study Summary

Pastor Henry started his sermon by referring to the recent incident in Hawaii where residents were given a 10 minute warning about an impending nuclear attack. This led Henry to ask – If you had only 10 minutes to live, what would matter the most to you? Paul would not hesitate in how to answer such a question.

In the end of his letter to the Colossians, Paul emphasizes that Jesus is the way to forgiveness and freedom and satisfaction in this life and is the way to living forever with God in the next life. For Christ followers, then the greatest gift we can give to someone is to introduce them to Jesus. This should be a priority in our lives. 1Tim. 2:3 says, “God our Savior . . . wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” When we join God in His mission, we are involved in the most God glorifying activity possible.

What kind of person does God use to introduce people to Jesus? Paul spells out this kind of person in Colossians 4.

1. God uses people who are **passionate** about introducing people to Jesus and who ask God to open the doors so that they can tell others about Jesus. All Christians, no matter their occupation, are called by God to be His representatives in the world and to point people to Him. As Christ-followers, we are called by God to make the invisible Christ visible in our workplace and in our lives through our Christ-like spirit and character, the good work we do and our testimony.
2. God uses people who **pray** for open doors and walk through them. (Col.4:3) These people pray for open doors to meaningful friendships and relationships with non-believers and for opportunities to share God’s love in ways that move them closer to Christ. These people are alert to the Holy Spirit and His promptings. (Gal. 5:25)
3. God uses people who **practice** what they believe. (Col. 4:5) Paul points out two practical ways to do this. First, we need to be wise in the way we **ACT** toward those outside the faith. Joe Aldrich says, “Christians need to be good news . . . before they share the good news.” In Matthew 5: 13, 14, Jesus says, “You **ARE** the salt of the earth . . . You **ARE** the light of the world . . .” In other words, we **ARE** the vehicle through which God’s kingdom will come to earth . . . as it is in heaven. What versions of Jesus do non-believers see when they look at us? Do they see people who practice what they believe? Do they see people who are serious about their Christianity and who are loving, honest and hardworking? Do they see people who are humble and genuine; people who admit wrong doing and do their best to correct it? Do they see people who are salt of the earth? Do they see people who reflect Christ wherever they go and to whomever He brings across their path? God uniquely places us where we are and we are His representative and His light in that place. When we seek to live a God pleasing life wherever He has placed us, people will notice. Secondly, in verse 6, Paul encourages us to be wise in how we **INTERACT** with non-believers. Christians are being portrayed in the world as out of step with the world and its values. It is so important that we love and serve others so that non-believers question how Christians are portrayed. Matthew 12:34 reminds us that what comes out of our mouth reveals what is in our heart. We need to make sure that there is love and grace in our heart when we talk to others.
4. Finally, God uses people who are **prepared** to talk about what Jesus means to them. How can people know about Jesus if no one tells them? (Romans 10:14) In 1 Cor. 2:1-5, Paul says that when God opens a door for us to tell someone what Jesus means to us, we should focus, not on our lack of knowledge but on what God can and will do through us. That said, we should grow in our knowledge of the scriptures and learn how to share the good news of Jesus. In the end though, it is God who draws a person to Himself. All we have to do is to pray, to show up and to have a conversation the best we know how and trust God to use us and our words.