

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF COLLOSSIANS

# Understanding Jesus



# WEEK 9 STUDY GUIDE

*BY: PASTOR WALTER DORT*

*MARCH 6-10, 2023*





# Monday, March 6, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 4:2-6

**Scripture Verse:** *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2a*

## Today's Thought:

One who accepts Christ as his Savior must have spiritual practices that bind him daily to Christ. This practice will lead to an intimate relationship with God. Among these practices, let us mention a few: Perseverance in reading the word of God - Perseverance in teaching - Perseverance in fellowship and breaking of bread - Perseverance in prayer, etc. Before we come to perseverance in prayer which is part of our study in verse 2 of the book of Colossians chapter 4, let's talk a bit about the word "perseverance" or "devotion."

Perseverance is the act of continuing to do what one has resolved, by an act of renewed will. The Bible gives us examples of people before us who marked their existence by acts of dedication or perseverance. In the Old Testament we find the dedication of the people of Israel under God's command. After seven relentless rounds, the walls of Jericho crumbled as God had promised. They persevered and they got the result. The Bible also tells us about Naaman, someone who had leprosy, an incurable disease at the time (2 Kings 5:1-19). He had to immerse himself seven times in the Jordan to be healed. It was only after the seventh dive that he recovered.

In the New Testament, in Matthew 15:21-28, we see the perseverance or devotion of the Canaanite woman whose daughter was cruelly tormented by a demon. She prostrated herself before Jesus to ask him for help, but Jesus told her that it was not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs. The woman didn't take Jesus' answer as an insult, but she persisted in asking for help until she found the help she needed for her daughter. What a beautiful lesson in perseverance that bears fruit! The Bible provides texts that teach us lessons to reward perseverance. We see in the word of God, all those who persevere in their requests which are in the will of God, ended up receiving a favorable response to their request.

So, we see that perseverance or dedication is very important in the life of the Christian. It can be said that this is the key to the spiritual success of the Christian life. The Lord invites us to lead a life of perseverance. So, in what aspect of life does the Lord invite us to persevere? In Joshua 1:8 and

Acts 2:42 we find areas in which we must persevere. We must persevere: 1- in reading the word of God (Joshua 1:8). Because the word of God is the source of our faith and our spiritual success, the nourishment of our soul, the light that enlightens us. 2- in the teaching of the word (Acts 2:42, Psalms 1:1-6). We must understand the purpose of our faith, understand the sound doctrine of Jesus Christ, and be able to help others grow in their Christian faith. 3- in fellowship (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 13:1). It helps us to value others, to practice the love of Christ, to share with others, to get to know each other better. 4- at the breaking of bread (Acts 2:42). It helps us remember the bloody sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ to save and redeem us from the condemnation of sin. It brings us closer each day to our Lord and his kingdom. 5- in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12). We are in a perpetual struggle until the return of our Lord Jesus because Satan persecutes us to the gate of heaven. 6- in prayer (Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer was the lifeblood of the first Christians. This maintained the relationship and intimacy between them and the Lord. We too, to maintain our relationship and intimacy with God, must have a consistent and continuous prayer life, to which we will return in a moment. Considering the above examples of perseverance or dedication, God not only requires our perseverance but also rewards our dedication. Brothers and sisters, be persevering and devoted Christians until the end of your life.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word today about perseverance. Perseverance is a key element in my relationship with you. Help me to persevere in the study of your word, in teaching -in fellowship and breaking of bread - and in prayer.

- What are the spiritual practices that daily bind the Christian?
- What does perseverance mean to you?
- Can you mention a result of perseverance in the Bible?
- In what aspect of life does the Lord invite us to persevere?

**Further Reading:** Romans 12: 10-13

## Tuesday, March 7, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 3: 12-17

**Scripture Verse:** *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2b*

### Today’s Thought:

In the previous study we talked about the perseverance of the early Christians and the result of their perseverance. Now let's talk about perseverance in prayer. On January 13, 2023, we gave the four facets to prayer. We proceeded as follows: worship (Psalms 139:14, Romans 15:11), confession (Psalms 32:5), thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6), and intercession (1 Timothy 2:1). In Colossians chapter 4:2 in the first part of the verse, the apostle Paul speaks of perseverance in prayer. When you think of perseverance or persistence in prayer, what comes to mind? How to develop a life of perseverance in prayer? In this study, we want to answer these questions. The purpose of this study is to help you persevere and continue to be firm in prayer because prayer creates intimacy with God.

So, close friends communicate and listen to each other to better understand and know each other. Likewise, through Jesus Christ, Christians are friends of God. As friends, we must seek to know God each day to better do his will. One of the surest ways to get to know God better and reveal himself to us is to spend quality time with him in prayer. The quality of time and patience are two important elements in talking with God, hearing his voice and maintaining a good relationship with him. If we crave a close relationship with God more than anything else, it is important to spend quality time with God in prayer. Learning to hear God's voice is essential to knowing Him better (1 John 5:14-15).

Perseverance in prayer helps us develop the habit of talking to God in order to have an intimate relationship with him. Our perseverance in prayer shows that we have only God. We put aside our will to yield to the will of God. Perseverance in prayer is not a quantity of time, but the quality of the time we spend with God in prayer. A time when we set aside our own agenda and cry out for the Holy Spirit to invade us and take control of every situation we pray for. It is a time we set aside to contemplate the greatness of God, his goodness and his blessings. Perseverance in prayer helps us not to fall into temptation. In prayer we have an encounter with God. Thus, no one can meet God and leave unchanged. Seeking God, his presence, his power, his forgiveness, healing and protection are essential in our devotion to God. Perseverance in prayer is a

way of exercising our faith in God and letting him pour out his blessings upon us.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus prayed for his disciples, and he also prayed for God's will to be done in his personal life (John 17:11-26, Luke 6:12-13). He showed his disciples how to pray (Matthew 6:9-13). After he went to his Father, his disciples made prayer one of the most important activities of their lives (Acts 2:42). Prayer is not something we do to impress others or to show how spiritual we are. It is a way to communicate with God, to seek his presence and to hear his voice. If you want to see the power of God at work in your life and the lives of others, we strongly encourage you to spend time with God and to pray fervently to Him. Let prayer be part of your lifestyle! Never start a day without prayer and don't fall asleep without praying to God. To neglect to pray is to give access to the devil to attack you, it is to lay down arms. When you pray, you present your records to God. Hey! Don't forget to present your records to your God now! He expects them from you!

Lord, thank you for your word today on perseverance in prayer. Father, help me to make prayer my way of life. Help me to talk to you, to hear your voice and to maintain a good relationship with you through prayer. Help me spend quality time with you in prayer. Help me set aside time to contemplate your greatness and goodness and lay my burdens at your feet.

- What are the four facets to prayer?
- What must the Christian do each day to get to know God better?
- How does perseverance in prayer help us?
- What did Jesus do during his earthly ministry?
- What is prayer?

**Further Reading:** Matthew 26:39-41

## Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 4: 2-6

**Scripture Verse:** *"Devoted yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" Colossians 4:2c*

### Today's Thought:

We have seen that the Apostle Paul asked the Christians of Colossae to persevere in prayer because prayer creates intimacy with God, prayer brings us closer to God and immerses us in the heart of God. It is also an offensive and defensive weapon that we can use against the attacks of the devil. The apostle did not stop there. He asked Christians to be vigilant, to be awake because the enemy does not sleep. It is not enough for the Christian to pray, he must also be on his guard, exercise perfect surveillance over himself, watch the adversary because he wants to catch us off guard. The apostle does not specify what the Christians of Colossae were to watch over. However, we can say that they had to watch over the teachings they received, because the Gnostics were always present to sow bad seeds in their hearts. "Watch your life and your doctrine carefully. Persevere in them, for if you do, you will save yourself and your hearers." 1 Timothy 4:16. They had to watch over their lives in general because the devil prowls around them, seeking to devour them. "Be alert and sober. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8. They had to watch over their relationship with God.

So, this advice is for us Christians today. We must work to have a good and healthy relationship with God by creating perfect intimacy with him. This intimacy is vital because the devil wants to control our lives and bring us down. What does a healthy relationship with God look like? How can you maintain it? You are in a healthy and intimate relationship with God when you create an environment where you can talk to God anywhere and anytime, where you can hear the voice of God. Where you can spiritually, emotionally grow. In 1 Peter 4:7, the apostle Peter calls us to be vigilant. "The end of all things is near. Therefore, be vigilant and sober so that you may pray." If we are not vigilant, the devil can do what he wants with us. Jesus himself asked his disciples to be vigilant, to watch and to pray so as not to fall into temptation. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:38.

We must know that we are soldiers, sentries. We are at war. A soldier at war must always be on the alert, he must not encumber himself with

the affairs of the world, because he does not know when the enemy will come to attack him. As soldiers, we must not fetter ourselves from the things of this world, nor behave like a lifeless statue. We are armed, we must use our weapons against the adversary. Prayer is one of our weapons. We are exposed to the attacks of the devil every day. Like good sentinels, despite fatigue, persecutions, anxieties, problems of all kinds, we must be on our guard. It is true that Jesus our redeemer has already mortally wounded our adversary by his death on the cross and by his resurrection from the dead, but the enemy wants at all costs to wipe his blood on us, the redeemed of God. Do not wait for the fierceness of the adversary to fire. We need to Throw Arrows now. You must get ahead of the opponent. Jesus was not waiting for the arrival of the enemy to go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray; he anticipated (Matthew 26:36). Brothers and sisters, like good sentries, let us always be on post day and night, weapons in hand, so as not to be surprised by the enemy like an eagle carrying off its prey. If we watch while praying, our eyes fixed on Jesus, our prayers will be like a fragrant perfume before God. Isn't it necessary to bring up this fragrance of our gratitude to God for his manifold blessings for us?

Heavenly Father, help me watch over my soul more than anything else. Help me have a good and healthy relationship with you by creating perfect intimacy with you. Despite fatigue, persecutions, anxieties, problems of all kinds, help me be on my guard day and night.

- What does prayer create between us and God?
- Why did the apostle Paul ask the Christians in Colossae to be vigilant?
- When are we in an intimate relationship with God?
- What are the characteristics of a good sentry or a good soldier?

**Further Reading:** Matthew 26:39-41



## Thursday, March 9, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 4: 2-6

**Scripture Verse:** *"At the same time, pray 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 am in prison" Colossians 4:3a*

### Today's Thought:

In the previous study, we can consider verse 2 as an inexhaustible source. The Apostle spoke of perseverance in prayer. We have seen many examples of perseverance in the Bible. Perseverance is the key to success. If you want to succeed, you must persevere in the field in which you evolve. Life is made of perseverance. You must have perseverance and trust in God and in the ability that God gives you to achieve the goal you have set. This is what the apostle Paul asked of the Christians in Colossae. He asked them to use perseverance in prayer to achieve the set goal. Knowing the importance and efficacy of prayer, the apostle not only encouraged Christians to pray for their own needs, but he also asked them to pray for him and his co-workers. "Pray at the same time for us."

The apostle Paul wanted to make the Christians of Colossae understand that they have the responsibility to pray for their leaders because they watch over their souls by giving them advice, teaching, and praying on their behalf. Christians too can pray for their leaders; because they are also exposed to the attacks of the devil, they need the help of God to resist those attacks, in order to exercise their ministry well. "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

So, the evangelical leaders of today need prayer to face the attacks of the devil, such as discouragement and misunderstanding. We must pray that God will use them with power, that God will grant them health, courage, the word that suits the needs of the flock. Ask God to dwell in their lives, to give them patience and determination to fulfill their mission of winning souls for Christ. Don't you feel concerned by this approach? If you are concerned, pray to the Lord now for your leaders.

Lord, thank you for your word. I take this opportunity to pray for my

leaders. Father, in your love, help them not to lose heart, grant them the clarity of the Holy Spirit, and allow us to be blessed by their words.. I pray for their families, for the spiritual warfare they wage every day on our behalf. Give them a strong and powerful ministry. Help us to consider them as a gift coming from you, help us to love them more and to encourage them in the work. In the name of Jesus! Amen.

- What was the responsibility of the Christians in Colossae to their leaders?
- Why do they have such a responsibility?
- What is your responsibility to your leaders and why?

**Further Reading:** Hebrews 13:17

## Friday, March 10, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 4: 2-6

**Scripture Verse:** *"At the same time, pray 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 am in prison" Colossians 4:3b*

### Today's Thought:

We have seen how Paul encouraged the Colossian Christians to pray for him personally and his co-workers. What was the reason for this request? Was it for his release from prison? What concerned him most? If you were in the apostle's place, what would you pray for? Considering the second part of the verse, we will see the main purpose of his prayer request.

The great apostle Paul, the man through whom God performed many miracles, so that aprons or handkerchiefs that had touched his body were applied to the sick, and diseases were healed (Acts 19:11-12). Here prayers are requested from the simple faithful for himself and his co-workers. The apostle wanted to teach Christians that God is not only the God of the apostle Paul, but he is also their God. They can approach him. He has the power to answer the prayers of the simple faithful, if one invokes with a pure and sincere heart (James 4:8). The apostle Paul also wanted them to participate in some way in spreading the gospel of grace. Here the apostle emphasized the efficacy of praying for one another. As James said in his epistle, the prayer of the righteous is very effective. "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James 5:16.

Paul wanted to show Christians that God can hear their prayers because the eyes of the Lord are on them, and his ears are attentive to their cry. The apostle wanted to show the Colossian Christians that they are worthy in the sight of God, and that the death and resurrection of Christ brought them to God. They can confidently approach God for their needs and even those of others, including the apostle. We read in 1 Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." If they approach God with a sincere heart, in the fullness of faith, with a heart purified from an evil conscience, God will answer them from heaven.

We see that Paul asks for help from the prayers of the Colossian Christians. What was the purpose of this prayer? Note that, Paul being incarcerated, he could ask for prayer for his release, but he did not. On the contrary, he asked for prayer that God would open a door for him to spread the gospel of grace. For him, prison, chains, everyday problems are part of the sufferings of life. Since he is in prison for a good cause, his incarceration did not bother him. His greatest concern is for lost souls. He had a burden for lost souls. We ask you this: while you pray for your needs, pray also for your leaders, for the missionaries, for those who do a work for God. If you approach in faith before God, He can answer you.

So, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Lord, thank you for your powerful word. I know that you are not only the God of the old leaders in the Bible, but you are also our God. I approach you; I pray for my needs and for those who teach me your word. In your love, deign to provide for their needs, as you take care of mine. In Jesus' name.

- For what specific reason did the apostle Paul ask for prayer?
- What did the Apostle Paul want to teach the Christians in Colossae when he asked them to pray?
- What does this study tell you?

**Further Reading:** Hebrews 4:14–16

*Remember! Our weekly assembly is a wonderful encounter with our Awesome God. It's a renewal of our fellowship with God and others. Today is Friday. Saturday and Sunday are coming. Don't forget your divine appointment!*



## NOTES





[centralwired.com](http://centralwired.com)