

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

As we wrap up our study of Colossians, I want to motivate us to action by remembering Paul's words in Galatians 6:7-9, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Three lessons jump out at me as I reflect on the idea of Christ in me and I am in Christ. The first is we will reap what we sow. If we dabble in worldly affairs, we will be more like the world. If we plant roses, we will get roses.

Second, we will reap more than we planted. The rule of life is delayed gratification pays dividends, and instant gratification demands years of payments. Spiritually, the reward of being in Christ has great value now and even more in the future. That is why Paul encouraged the Corinthian believers to generously plant seeds of faith so they would reap an even more generous harvest (2 Cor. 9:6).

Finally, we will reap in the future. Contrary to today's way of life, God's results will take time. Valuable antiques cannot be custom-made for you today. A valuable character cannot take shortcuts.

If it is to be, it is up to me. Let us shed off the old self and be clothed in Christ. Let us share the mystery of Christ with all who are around us. Let us plant generously. Let us look up and press on so we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

SERMON NOTES

CHRIST IN ME

October 24

Final Instruction: _____

◆ Be devoted to _____

◇

◆ Be devoted to _____

◇

PERSONAL STORY OF CHRIST IN ME

The ones who _____:

◆ Jews:

◆ Gentiles:

The one who _____:

◆ Attributes:

The one who _____:

◆ You are

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Col. 3:5-10

Next Week:

UNGODLY

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PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Colossians 4:5

Be wise in how you act—make the most of every opportunity. Are you praying you will get an opportunity to share Jesus with this week? If you are not looking for opportunities, you will probably miss them.

Tu Colossians 4:6

Let your conversations be always full of grace. You probably have a special friend who can quickly annoy you. Set your mind this week to prepare to be gracious in your speech, even to that one guy!

We Colossians 4:4

Make a list of those with whom you want to share Jesus. Now add to your list, Believers you know who are active in sharing their faith. Pray both you and your believing friends maximize each opportunity.

Th Colossians 3:23-24 & 4:1

Work for the Lord and not for man. Know that your loving Father rewards those who are faithful. How can you work to honor Him in your work today?

Fr Colossians 4:7-17

Paul lists his faithful crew. Encourage those who have been encouraging you. Make a list of those who have blessed your life, and then let them know you thank God for them and their service.

Sa Colossians 4:10 & 14—Focus on the finish line

Paul once refused to work with John Mark, and now Paul commends him. Paul currently commends Demas for his faithful work. In 2 Tim. 4:10, Demas has deserted his faith. Commit to be faithful to God.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Colossians chapter 4. Take turns reading one verse at a time.
- Look at verse 2 - Three parts of prayer life are encouraged. Notice these three points build upon the other: Devoted becomes observant for a response, which gives opportunity to be thankful. How do you apply these to your life? Where do you need to focus and work to improve?
 - ◇ Devoted to prayer—also see Rom. 12:12, Eph. 6:18, Phil. 4:6, and 1 Thes. 5:17
 - ◇ Being watchful—might mean paying attention to what you are saying to God or keeping alert from temptation.
 - ◇ Thankful—often an integral part of the Christian life.
- Look at verse 5—Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders and make the most of every opportunity.
 - ◇ Why does it take prayer and preparations to deal with nonbelievers?
 - ◇ Share some examples of a believer not being wise by either not presenting the mystery of Christ (v.4) or not speaking with grace (v.6).
- Memorize Colossians 4:2 & 5-6 this week. Write it down and place it somewhere you'll see it throughout your day. How could daily reflecting on these verses impact your conversations this week?
- Verses 5 & 6, sharing our faith, along with Paul being in prison for his faith (v.3), seems frightening to many Believers. How does the realization that Christ is in you give you the motivation to overcome your fear? How confident are you that Jesus is sufficient to provide everything you need?