

You Have A Mission!

“The CODE” Series – Part 10

A 15 Minute Study Guide- Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. What must you do in preparation to devote yourself successfully to a time of prayer, fully aware and without distractions?
2. Take time to pray for a missionary that you know personally.
3. What do you need to say “No” to this week that you might have more time to minister to someone in need? Will you make a plan to say “No” and then “Yes” to a ministry opportunity? What is that plan? If comfortable doing so, share with the group in order to pray for one another specifically.

* * * * *

A Fuller Study Guide-

Connect question: What habit do you have that drives others crazy?

Introduction: There is an age-old question to which many have sought an answer: *“What is the meaning of life?”* Untold answers abound! One such answer is found in a Christian doctrinal statement called the Baltimore Catechism. It answers the question *“Why did God make you?”* by saying *“God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.”*

Is there any thing else you would like to add to the above answer?

When reflecting upon the meaning and purpose of life, the following authors make the following statements. Upon reading them, which of the three quotes strikes you most with its truth?

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, “I used everything you gave me.” – Erma Bombeck

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile”. – Albert Einstein

“I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day”. – E. B. White

In our study of our last Grace Hills Church core value, we discussed the belief that God has created us with a purpose and a mission to fulfill in life. Daily, we are to be “On Mission” with both our resources and actions, within our community and around the world. In our text below, the Apostle Paul ends his letter to the church at Colossi with some helpful instructions on how to do this successfully:

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

Col 4:3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.

Col 4:4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

Col 4:5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Discussion: For the sake of our discussion today, let's break down Paul's advice into three categories:

- Our Prayer Life (verses 2-4)
- Our Everyday Conduct (verse 5)
- Our Conversation (verse 6)

Prayer Life:

Prayer can be about tough and painful situations and circumstances. How can one pray with "*thanksgiving*"?

How might the abundance or lack of prayerful thanksgiving affect our mission effectiveness?

What are Paul's specific prayer needs? Who has the same needs whom you need to pray?

Everyday Conduct:

What does "wise living among unbelievers" look like to you? Give an example:

What changes would you like to make in your activities in order to open up more opportunities for reaching out to and serving others?

Our Conversation:

How can we be sure our conduct is both gracious and attractive? What is a personal major flaw in your conduct that is unattractive?

What steps can each of us take to ensure our responses are right?

Homework:

Take an inventory:

What resources has God provided for you that He would want you to share with others who need the gospel?

What particular ministry is God calling you to get involved in both locally and globally?

What will you do next in response to your answers?