

'The Prayer 20/20 Impact' - Knowing Jesus More! Communion Sunday October 4th, 2020

*Dear Praying Friends, and Partners In Prayer Team, and
whole Church Family,*

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and
thankful!"*

Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

*"Open my eyes, so that I may see
the wonderful truths in your law." Psalm 119:18
(GNT)*



*"If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just
(true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness]
and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to
His will in purpose, thought, and action]."*

1 John 1:9 (Amplified Bible)

Editorial from Pastor: Due to the personal and private nature of our Communion Service and the public testimonies and hymn sing, we will not be recording or broadcasting our service this week. Hopefully we can share with you and encourage you to be praying. Stay in touch with what God is doing through the announcements and this week's Partners in Prayer. There will not be a sermon message this week, but look forward to our continuing messages in Colossians next Sunday.

Pastor <><

Do you know that this week has been the Old Testament celebration of Yom Kippur? This is the celebration of the Day of Atonement! Just what is it that should be celebrated? All week I've been reading through several Old Testament passages which explain the celebration of the Day of Atonement.



Leviticus 29 lays out the specifics of what is to be offered and celebrated on that day. Scripture calls this a "Holy Convocation" (Numbers 29:7-8). In the Hebrew, this literally means a day when a public meeting is called where a sacred remembrance is done publicly as opposed to privately. The description is that this is a time for confession and 'anah' which is the word for self-brow beating. A person is to afflict his soul

with a time of confession. He is to deny himself everything he needs: work, pay, health, riches, wages, and family in order to connect with his relationship to God. One is to take a huge “pause” to everyday life and humble oneself. He or she is to make right the relationship with God and as sins are confessed, that person must entrust himself to His atonement. What I noticed (which was a spiritual amazement to me) was that during this time, “no work is to be done by anyone” (Numbers 29:7). And when we look at Jesus, who is the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world, He is the one who did the work for us! He is the one who paid for our atonement, shed His blood for our atonement, and bought the relationship back for us to be with God.

Colossians says it this way: *“When you came to Christ, He set you free from your evil desires, not by a bodily operation of circumcision but by a spiritual operation, the baptism of your souls. For in baptism you see how your old, evil nature died with Him and was buried with Him; and then you came up out of death with Him into a new life because you trusted the Word of the mighty God who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead in sins, and your sinful desires were not yet cut away. Then He gave you a share in the very life of Christ, for He forgave all your sins, and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of His commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ’s cross”* (Col. 2:11-14 *The Living Paraphrase*).

Hebrews says this: *“For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”* (Hebrews 10:1-4 *ESV*). Jesus is the fulfillment of all atonement! He is the one who died and finished all the work of our salvation! He did the work for us!

Now as we come together today for communion, we can sing **“Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin has left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.”** I want us to come today celebrating praise to God, having confession and humbleness for communion, and expressing thanksgiving for all that Jesus has done for atoning and purchasing our salvation. This is the first public gathering where we as a body are coming together since March 15th.

1. All praise to Him we give! People really have a terrible idea of who Jesus is today. This last week a Christian we know sent this quote out trying to encourage people, but the quote struck us as off. **“[Jesus] came in mid-tone skin, from the underclass, a male body with a female soul, from an often-hated religion, and living on the very cusp between East and West. No one owns Him, and no one ever will.”** What do you think? Do you agree with that? Remember that Colossians 2:8-9 warned: *“See to it that no one*

takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ" (NIV). This quote lessens who Jesus is to make Him more conformable to those struggling in current tensions and political issues. It wants to make Jesus less. So I, wanting to remember that Jesus is the Great Potentate who rules this world, went back through Colossians 1 to see who Jesus is.

- He is Supreme: *"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Col. 1:15).*
- He is the Master Creator: *"For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him" (vs. 16).*
- He is the Super Glue of the Universe: *"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (vs. 17).*
- He is the Boss of the Church: *"And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him" (vs. 18-19).*
- He is the Prince of Peace and Our Reconciler! *"And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross" (vs. 20).*

So I just did a little review through my journal from this whole time as I've been preaching in Colossians. I went through the verses of each chapter and wrote down who Jesus is for us during these hard and difficult days. Here is the list in no particular order from June 29th through this last week as I've asked the question: "Who is Jesus and how do I know Him more?"

- ✓ Jesus Christ is our Supremacy, the Image of the Invisible God, and First Born of all creation.
- ✓ Jesus is our Lord, my Forgiver, and my Reconciler.
- ✓ Jesus is my Savior, my Friend, my best Friend. I want you to know He is the dearest person in my life.
- ✓ Jesus is the Unsearchable Riches. Jesus is the world's Greatest Mystery and Secret.
- ✓ Christ is He who lives in me. My Master. Jesus the Secret of Life who is the secret of living.
- ✓ Jesus is the One who holds all things together. He's the Superglue of the Universe. Christ in you the Hope of Glory!
- ✓ Jesus is my Healer, my Sustainer, my Preserver, my Keeper.
- ✓ Jesus is the Living Water whom I thirst for. My Savior. My Hope.
- ✓ Jesus is our Champion. Our greatest Joy!
- ✓ Jesus is at God's right hand. He's Mighty. He is the One who prays for me. He's the Big-Handler of time.

- ✓ Jesus, we love You. Holy is His Name.
- ✓ Christ my Risen Savior. The Storm Stiller. My Forever Friend.
- ✓ Jesus my Alpha and Omega, the Eternal Logos. Christ the Prince of Peace.
- ✓ Jesus my Elector. The One who chose me.
- ✓ Jesus our Greatest Love. Jesus the Maker of Heaven and Earth.
- ✓ Jesus my Dresser. His Holy Spirit is my tailor for new clothes in Christ. He is the Ultimate Fashion Designer.
- ✓ He is Jesus the Lover of my soul.
- ✓ He is our Fullness, our All-in-All, our Song, our Strength, our Hope. He is my Joy! My Melody!
- ✓ Jesus is my Sanctifier and Glorifier. The One who loves preachers and people in His flock. Jesus who loves His Bride- PCBC.

I stopped there. I know much of what was written was repeated. I tried to not keep repeating things I wrote down each day. But what a blessedness, right?! Oh people of Palisades, do you want to praise and know our Jesus more and more?

2. A humble confession to Him we give! Our prayers matter so much! I shared this last week with several pastors that we are gathering and giving ourselves to a focused prayer time at 9:30. I shared that we pray the P.C.B.C. way: Praise, Confession, Big Picture, and Current Events. Several of them said: “Can we copy your idea? We need to get back to being on our knees and praying!”

I don't share that as a boast for us, but because the importance and need of God's people to call out in prayer. Remember what is so important in praying confession that is found in 1 John 1:9: *“If we acknowledge our sins, then, since He is trustworthy and just, He will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing”* (CJB). We must confess before God, just like Israel did during the Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement. Here is a prayer I gleaned from my Jewish



friends to pray during Yom Kippur: *“Our God and God of our fathers, pardon our iniquities on this Day of Atonement; blot out our transgressions and sins from Thy sight, as it is said: ‘I, even I, am He that blots out thy transgressions for Mine own sake; and I will not remember thy sins.’ And it is said: ‘I have redeemed thee.’ Our God and God of our fathers*

accept our prayer. Sanctify us through Thy commandments. Give us abundantly of Thy goodness and make us rejoice in Thy salvation. Thou art He who forgives and pardons the community of Yeshurun. Blessed art Thou, o Lord, Thou King who pardonest and forgivest our iniquities and the iniquities of Thy people, the house of prayer... Remember us unto life, O King who delightest in life, and inscribe us in the Book of Life so that we may live worthy for Thy sake, O Lord of

Life, O King, Thou Helper, Redeemer and Shield.” (High Holy Day Prayer Book, pg. 21 and 33).

Let me share some of my recent gleanings on prayer from other godly men in history which inspire us to ever increase our prayers and know that during these times, we will not succeed without prayer and a strong prayer force of God’s people.

E. M. Bounds wrote this: *“The superficial results of many a ministry- and the deadness of others- are to be found in the lack of praying. No ministry can succeed without much praying, and this praying must be fundamental, ever abiding, ever increasing.”* (The Ministry of Prayer- Prayer is the Answer, pg. 72).

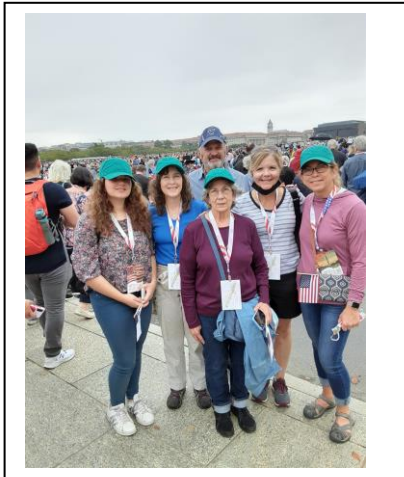
Addressed to pastors, John Wesley said this: *“The text, the sermon, the service, should all be the result of prayer. Your study [as a pastor] should be bathed in prayer, all its duties so impregnated with prayer, its whole spirit the spirit of prayer”* (Prayer is the Answer pg. 73). I take this as my goal for every Sunday that we meet together. I have sensed a spiritual change in things as a church people as we gather back from the Covid-19 shutdown. We are people growing and gathering with a hungry spirit. We are reaching out asking God to give us as a church a life of greater, deeper, truer prayer. I sense God is answering this.

Andrew Murray said: *“Let all lovers of souls, and all workers in the service of the gospel, take courage. Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work. Prayer alone gives work its worth and its success. Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us”* (The Ministry of Intercession: A Plea for More Prayer, pg. 46).

The last quote about the power of our prayers comes from Andrew Murray again as it encourages the increase of our prayer force that will change our worship: *“We find some worshippers who, in their ignorance, hardly know what they ask. They pray earnestly, yet receive little. We see other worshippers who have more correct knowledge, who try to pray with all their minds and hearts. They often pray most earnestly, and yet do not attain to the full blessedness of worship in spirit and truth. So, we must strive to place ourselves in the third class, and we must ask our Lord Jesus to take us there. We must be taught by Him how to worship in spirit and truth. In prayer everything will depend on our understanding well- the practicing- the worship in spirit and truth”* (Lord Teach Us to Pray, pg. 33).

So as we pray this week, I want to remind us of the success that prayer will bring us at Palisades if we cry out to God for revival and repentance. I am including a few of the photos from those who attended the prayer march last Saturday in Washington, DC. I am praying that the spirit of revival, the

movement of repentance and confession will flow up from that powerful day to our 611 corridor. I am praying and confessing that God will do a mighty work here! Please pray this today!



3. All thanks we accredit to Him! *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful!” Colossians 4:2 (NIV)* When we pray and look watchfully in His Word, we could ask, “God, is there anything You want to say to us?” And then we wait. “God, is there anything we need to know that we’re not thinking about?” And then we wait some more. James 1:5 says, *“If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won’t correct you for asking” (CEV).* God wants us to ask Him for advice, and he wants us to be specific. He’s waiting for us to ask! Look into God’s Word to see what God might want to say to us. Psalm 119:18 is a verse that we should memorize: *“Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your law” (GNT).*

It’s a good verse to pray as we open God’s Word. Then share out our testimonies! What joy this last week when Josie gave me this sheet of paper that she wrote during church: (The note is on the side-“church is”). Isn’t it a great reminder of what church really means to us and why we can thank Christ for meeting today? Let’s lift our thanks today!

Bev Bonnville called and left me a phone message that said: “I appreciate so much all the prayers



and blessings you are sending my way. It's just wonderful. I don't know what else to say except it humbles me. I just wanted to call you and let you know it means a lot to me. God bless all of you! I will be in touch as to what God is doing. Thank you so much, and God bless all of you!" She is so thankful for all the prayer warriors. She can just feel it! So keep it up.

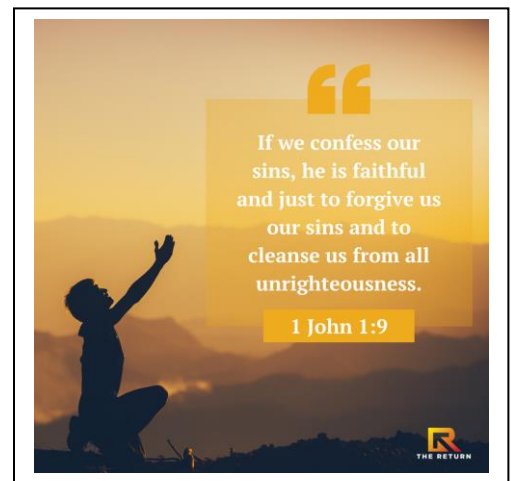
Kelly and Steve have emailed me that Kelly's passport has come through, and they are waiting still on Steve's, Joe's, and Anna's. Pray that if it comes this week, they then can go to the New York Thailand consulate and get the process for re-entering Thailand. Pray away this huge "mountain" by faith!

Three times a month, Jermaine Washington and Michelle Stevens get together for what they call a "gratitude lunch." With good reason! Washington donated a kidney to Stevens, whom he described as "just a friend." They met at work where they used to have lunch together. One day Michelle wept as she spoke about waiting on a kidney donor list for 11 months. She was being sustained by kidney dialysis, but suffered chronic fatigue and blackouts and was plagued by joint pain. Because Washington couldn't stand the thought of watching his friend die, he gave her one of his kidneys. When you've got something great to be thankful for, having a "gratitude lunch" is a great way to celebrate. (*Today in the Word, November 14, 1993.*) This is the same thing we are doing today after Communion. We are sharing our testimonies of thanks.

In a world of confusion and chaos, it is also good to remember what thanks we can give for God's great provisions and blessings. Take time to share during the service something you can thank God for during this Covid-19 time. We are looking to have a time to share those expressions of thanks today. God is still sovereign and in control of ALL things (Romans 8:28)! So remember, make this a day of "Praise, Confession, and Thanks!"

Pray with me,

"Father, with gratitude and feelings of humble thanks, we lift up our praise, and gratitude for who You are and all that You are doing in our lives. Praised art Thou, O Lord our God. We live in such a season of fear, frustration, anger, hate, and divisiveness. Yet thank You for everything that passes through Your hands. Let us remember all that Christ has atoned for us during these Days of Atonement. We have been rebellious, we have provoked, we have been impulsive, we have been contemptuous, and we have been dishonorable and gone astray. We mislead in our sins. Have mercy and return to us as a country and nation. We have sinned against Thee, our God, forgive us. When our strength fails, forsake us not. Show us as a people in America a sign of



Your favor again. Shed Your grace upon us. All things hidden are revealed, You know all. Nothing is hidden or veiled from Your eyes. Forgive our follies. As we pray for physical healing for those who have caught the coronavirus in these weeks, we ask also for grace to be extended to those who have put their lives on the frontlines to help, cure, and bring people through these times. We not only pray for physical help, but in these times we pray for the deeper spiritual healing that needs to go deeper into the hardened hearts of many around. You would think that this kind of year would cause people to seek and return to You. You would think these unprecedented times of turmoil would draw people back to You, but alas we marvel that it hasn't. We don't see people return to church, or return to a way of life and surrender to You. We have so many who need Jesus, the Hope of life and glory. We know that You are patient and longsuffering, and as we don't know the day and time of Your Son's coming, we know that You are holding off with love and mercy waiting for the return of those last few to come to know Christ as Savior. You tarry because Your heart longs to do works of rescue in lives. We ask that You ignite hearts as in days of John Edwards, bringing an awakening of true devotion, renewal of affections, love, and repentance for Christ. We call out that You would visit us with days of revival and a harvest of souls who trust Christ as Savior and Lord; who give their lives to follow Jesus with real and winsome devotion. But until then, break our hearts with confession and lowliness. Holy Spirit, melt our hearts, for we cannot soften them. Cause us to see how we have been rescued by our Great Savior. Help us enter into the world of others, to be evangelistic, but not offensive, to walk alongside them with caring hearts and hands that are ready to help. May we grow into people who love as we have been loved and who serve as we have served. Help us to sing with confidence that Jesus truly is our only boast, and when He returns to take His ransomed children home, let us sing anew, 'Hallelujah, what a Savior!' Amen."

***Praying with face to the floor,
Pastor Corvin <><***

Communion Story from Chuck Colson's book- The Body:

Believers dare not come to the Lord's Table except with a repentant heart. "Whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner," as Paul puts it, "drinks judgment to himself." That should be a sobering warning, especially when the apostle adds that because of this offense many have fallen ill or died. Any pastor who takes the Word of God seriously should never administer Communion without adequately warning partakers. Those who are unrepentant should flee the table rather than trivialize the sacred.

And God does not view this sacred act lightly. Pat Novak, pastor in a nonsacramental denomination, discovered this when he was serving as a hospital chaplain intern just outside of Boston several years ago. Pat was making his rounds one summer morning when he was called to visit a patient admitted with an undiagnosed ailment. John, a man in his sixties, had not responded to any treatment; medical tests showed nothing; psychological tests were inconclusive. Yet he was wasting away; he had not even been able to swallow for two weeks. The nurses tried everything. Finally they called the chaplain's office.

When Pat walked into the room, John was sitting limply in his bed, strung with IV tubes, staring listlessly at the wall. He was a tall, grandfatherly man, balding a little, but his sallow skin hung loosely on his face, neck, and arms where the weight had dropped from his frame. His eyes were hollow.

Pat was terrified; he had no idea what to do. But John seemed to brighten a bit as soon as he saw Pat's chaplain badge and invited him to sit down. As they talked, Pat sensed that God was urging him to do something specific: He knew he was to ask John if he wanted to take Communion. Chaplain interns were not encouraged to ask this type of thing in this public hospital, but Pat did.

At that John broke down. "I can't!" he cried. "I've sinned and can't be forgiven."

Pat paused a moment, knowing he was about to break policy again. Then he told John about 1 Corinthians 11 and Paul's admonition that whoever takes Communion in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself. And he asked John if he wanted to confess his sin. John nodded gratefully. To this day Pat can't remember the particular sin John confessed, nor would he say if he did, but he recalls that it did not strike him as particularly egregious. Yet it had been draining the life from this man. John wept as he confessed, and Pat laid hands on him, hugged him, and told John his sins were forgiven.

Then Pat got the second urging from the Holy Spirit: Ask him if he wants to take Communion. He did. Pat gave John a Bible and told him he would be back later. Already John was sitting up straighter, with a flicker of light in his eyes.

Pat visited a few more patients and then ate some lunch in the hospital cafeteria. When he left he wrapped an extra piece of bread in a napkin and borrowed a coffee cup from the cafeteria. He ran out to a shop a few blocks away and bought a container of grape juice. Then he returned to John's room with the elements and celebrated Communion with him, again reciting 1 Corinthians 11. John took the bread and chewed it slowly. It was the first time in weeks he had been able to take solid food in his mouth. He took the cup and swallowed. He had been set free.

Within three days John walked out of that hospital. The nurses were so amazed they called the newspaper, which later featured the story of John and Pat, appropriately, in its "LIFE" section.

... Charles W. Colson (The Body, 1992, Word Publishing, pp. 139-140)