

# 'The Prayer 20/20 Impact' - Knowing Jesus More! September 13th, 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)*

This week when I had a knock on the church door, I came out to the front to see a 2020 Census taker named Bob. I had a really enjoyable time talking to him and giving him the information about our community church. I had a



moment where he asked the question: "What type of church is this?" I had so many possible answers to that question. What would you have said? I did have this answer for him, "If anything is certain, we are an upper-room church of prayer!" He answered: "Wow, I wish I had grown up in a church like that!" There was so much we shared and talked about through the whole conversation of what was supposed to

be a six-minute interview, which ended up being almost forty-five minutes. We even shared about what we are doing in these upcoming election times. Now more than ever, people are divided and upset with each other. We see it in the church now more than ever. I want to challenge us that we need to be people of prayer. Remember to join us each Sunday morning during our old Sunday School hour at 9:30 so we can join together in prayer.

**1. Continue to make it our aim to be a "house of prayer!"** Notice that Paul reminds us that as a church body we need to keep devoting ourselves to prayer. Jesus said His Father's house would be a "house of prayer for all the nations" (Mark 11:17). True intercessory prayer is born of love and comes in the midst of sin and need. It comes not to condemn, but to redeem. The truth is that all nations sin. All cultures have times of crises. Yet these times can become turning points if, in the time of distress, intercessors cry to God for mercy. Thus, prayer brings redemption from disaster.

We must understand: the church is created not to fulfill God's wrath but to complete His mercy. Remember, we are called to be a house of prayer for all nations. Consider passionately this phrase: "prayer for." Jesus taught us to "pray for" those who persecute and mistreat us. Paul tells us that God desires all men to be saved. Therefore, he urges that "entreaties and prayers . . . be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). When Job "prayed for" his friends, God fully restored him (Job 42). We are to "pray for" the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6) and "pray for" each other, that we may be healed (James 5:16).

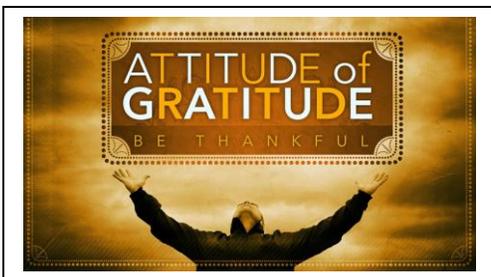
Over and over again the command is to pray for, not against; not vindictively, but mercifully; not with condemnation, but with compassion, appealing to God to bring forgiveness and redemption. The problem is that too many Christians have become disciples of the news media rather than followers of Jesus Christ. We think conforming to our political party is the same as attaining the standards of God. It is not.

Study Isaiah 53. It reveals in wondrous detail the Savior's nature: Christ numbered Himself with sinners. He interceded for transgressors. He is "with" us and "for" us, even when He must reveal to us our iniquity.

But the world sees a church with rocks in its hands looking for adulterers and sinners. We have become the "church of the angry Christians." In the drama that is unfolding in America today, we must learn the role of Christ, rather than that of the Pharisees. Let us drop the rocks from our hands, then lift our hands, without wrath, in prayer to God (1 Tim. 2:8) who desires all men to be saved, including kings and all in authority. I can't help but wonder, does our 611 corridor know we are a church of prayer? How can we let them know? I want us to be seriously thinking about that this week. I also want you to find a time and pray for our community and our church people.

**2. Take a moment and be a church of “thankfulness!”** Note that Colossians 4:2 says, “watching with thankfulness!” It’s not just enough to pray, we need to be thankful people and express real thanks before God. I think that it brings Him glory. Did you ever notice how hard it is to say “thank you?” I think it is really cool to watch young families instructing their kids to understand the value of saying thank you. Take a moment and think about the people in your life who had the greatest impact on yours. Have you ever gone back and said thanks?

The Bible says, “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). When I received the olive wood cross this last week from Elias Nissan, I took time and wrote a very long thank you to him by email. Just taking that moment really made me think about the importance of saying thank you to the people who make a fantastic difference in our lives. As I studied this passage in Colossians 3:15-27 it occurred to me that one of the underlying attitudes was that of “thankfulness” which is articulated three times in the three short verses: “... and be thankful” (vs. 15); “sing with gratitude in your hearts to God” (vs. 16); and “give thanks to God the Father through Him [Christ]” (vs. 17).



So, as I studied this week, my heart started to question, “Have I forgotten to say thanks to some people who had made an important difference in my past?” I was saved as a young child at a small country church called, Jackson Baptist Church of Derrs, PA. If you were to ask me what that church was like, I may come up with a lot of answers, but one that I know for sure is that it was a praying and thankful church. I remember time and time again having prayer meetings and testimony times.

Yet, I never thanked Pastor Kelnor for being the one who helped me to grow so much in Christ. As I’ve been learning from a book by Theodore Epp on Colossians, it hit me square in the face that I never once expressed my thanks to him when he was alive. I shared recently with Bill Welte, the Director of Keswick, about how I regret never sharing my thanks. Do you want to hear what Bill shared with me? He told me that about 20 years ago he wrote a letter to his boyhood pastor, Rev. Lehman, of a small church in Philadelphia, to say thanks for leading him to Christ. Pastor Lehman wrote back a letter expressing his appreciation for writing to him and then told Bill that in his twenty-five years of ministry no one had ever thanked him for his investment into his or her life. Bill said, “While I was glad that I wrote the letter, it really grieved me that no one else had ever said thanks.”

So let this be a moment of truth to us at Palisades Community Bible Church. Let’s purpose before God that we want to learn to be faithful in saying thanks to those people in our lives who have made a difference. I want to encourage you to take the step of doing just that. Make a list of people who have impacted your life spiritually and then send them a note of thanks, make a visit, or pick up the phone and give them a call. My guess is that you will breathe encouragement into their lives, and you will come away blessed. Who’s on your list? I’m making this week’s Partners short and sweet so we can remember to pray and express thanks!

What if we are having a difficult time expressing thanks or even praying? Remember our acrostic for prayer: Praise, Confession, Big picture and Current events. What if you are having a hard time coming to prayer with thanksgiving? As I was preparing for my sermon featuring Colossians 3:16, “Let the [spoken] word of Christ have its home within you [dwelling in your heart and mind—permeating every aspect of your being] as you teach [spiritual things] and admonish and train one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (The Amplified Bible), I noticed that singing praises helps us to learn to be wise in God’s Word. So I found this wonderful exhortation from Charles Spurgeon when he encouraged his prayer team, who were coming to church on Sunday and going up into the prayer room, that they should begin prayer by singing:

*"But, lastly, you have been upstairs [to the prayer room before church] to pray, you say, and you have got no comfort from the exercise. Let me suggest that, the next time you go upstairs, you sing a psalm. 'Oh, I have been up and down!' says one, 'trying to awaken myself into earnestness of supplication.' May I also propose to you that you do not try that method again for a while, but begin to praise [or sing to] God. How many times a day do you praise Him? I think you do get alone to pray, and you would be ashamed if you did not, once, twice, or three or even more times in the day; but how often do you praise God? Now, you know that you will not pray in heaven; there it will be all praise. Then do not neglect that necessary part of your education which is to 'begin the music here.' Start at once praising the Lord. Many of our doubts and fears would fly away if we praised God more; and many of our trials and troubles would altogether vanish if we began to sing of our mercies. Oftentimes, depression of spirit that will not yield to a whole night of wrestling would yield to ten minutes of thanksgiving before God. Praying is the stalk of the wheat, but praise is the very ear of it. Praying is the leaf of the rose, but praise is the rose itself, redolent with the richest perfume. Praise God, then, 'in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,' and if you say you do not know how to do it, then 'let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.' It is a praise-begetting thing. Out of every Book of Scripture will stream praises unto Jehovah. Out of every promise will spring a sonnet. Out of every divine truth, enjoyed and lived upon, will rise a spiritual song. The whole revelation of God is the condensed essence of praise; you have only to give it a fitting opportunity, by setting it simmering on the fire of a graceful heart, and you shall find a sweet cloud of holy incense rising from it acceptable to the Most High. Therefore, beloved, be much with your Bibles, and let your Bibles be much with you; for your own profit, for the profit of others, and for the glory of God. So be it, for Christ's sake! Amen." (Spurgeon, #2679 pgs. 7-8).*

Oh, that every Sunday as prayer warriors at PCBC we would sing to start our prayers. Will you try it? Then do it now!

Pray with me,

**Our wonderful and dear Father, many of us come before You today with troubled hearts and minds. We are fearful about our relationships, and this world's views. We are anxious about viruses and political things. All we are managing to be is a church of quarreling and offense. So Jesus, help us be a church of expressing Your love and mercy and compassion. Help us to be thankful. Thank You for setting us apart from the others in this world to worship You as our Savior. Help us be devoted to prayer and thankfulness. Lord Jesus, thank You that You are the King who rules in truth and grace. You are the First and the Last, the Lord of all nations, worthy of the praises of all people. Help Your peace to rule over our church. Help us be rich in Your Word. Help us sing to bring others to love You. Let all we do, be to glorify and bring credit to You and show we represent our Lord Jesus. Holy Spirit, fill us with such expression of thankfulness that we impact our world for You. Teach us to walk in humble dependence upon You, and may Jesus be**

***exalted in our minds and hearts. Let us see Him in all His glory, worshipped by angels, and archangels, adored by those He has redeemed, and make us deeply grateful that the mighty Prince of Peace has loved and rescued us. And all God's people said, amen!"***

***Thankfully,  
Pastor Corvin <><***

***The following is a picture to say thanks to those who last week put together 500 boxes for boys in the 10/40 window to hear and know' Christ.***

