

Sermon Title: To Invest

Sermon Series: Inviting – All in Together

Scripture: Colossians 4:2-6

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



Invitations:

- Make Church Participation a Weekly Priority
- Be in Intentional relationships for each other's growth
- Grow in maturity by training yourself with God's Word
- As Jesus has served us, He invites us to join Him in serving others.
- Pray

Invitation: Share Jesus with others by _____, _____, and _____



Why would Christians _____ Jesus with others? - David Whiting

We believe there is a Real Heaven and Hell. Everyone spends forever in one place or the other.

Jesus said what you decide about him determines where you go.

What place you go isn't about how good you are, but who or what you trust in.

How should we _____ Jesus with others?

Colossians 4:2-4 ESV

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 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— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

How should we share Jesus with others?

1) Start with PRAYER

Prayer is objectively real — a real God, real communication, real work, real answers. But it also comes in a million shapes and forms. Prayer happens in seconds — short moments in the cracks of our day — and it can happen for hours at a time, even throughout a whole night.

—Marshall Segal

Characteristics of Gospel Sharing Prayer

1. Pray Continually

Colossians 4:2 ESV –

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving

2. Pray Watchfully

Colossians 4:2 ESV –

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving

3. Pray Thankfully

Colossians 4:2 ESV –

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

“Paul not only practiced a mature prayer life but he also prescribed it for all believers. They should devote themselves to prayer. Prayer is not a spiritual luxury; it is essential for growth. Prayer, as vital to one’s spiritual health as breathing is to one’s physical health, should be continual, not casual.”

—Normal Geisler, from Colossians 4:2 in the BKC

4. Pray _____ for open doors and clarity

Colossians 4:3-4 ESV

3 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— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Praying for those who don’t know God yet opens our eyes to the open doors to share.

Friend, family, co-worker/classmate, neighbor

2) Look to Invest

Colossians 4:5-6 ESV

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Investing = Character Showing

Colossians 3:12-17 ESV

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Is Jesus appealing to you? Does that show to others?

Colossians 4:5-6 ESV

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

“Paul’s comments assume that the Colossian believers are vitally involved in the local community and have ample opportunities to interact with outsiders in a way that would commend the gospel to them.”

—ESV Study Bible

Investing = Character showing, Relationships Growing

Colossians 4:5-6 ESV

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Approach _____ content, always

1 Peter 2:12 ESV

12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

“People don’t care how much you _____ until they know how much you _____.”

Colossians 1:21-23 ESV

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation[a] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Invitation: Share Jesus with others by Praying, Investing, and Inviting

Friend, Family Member, Co-Worker, Neighbor



Discussion Questions:

Getting to know you Questions:

1. Who is someone that has invested in your life and what type of impact have they had on your life?
2. What were some of the characteristics of that person?

Into the Bible Questions:

3. Read Colossians 4:2-6 ESV

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 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— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

4. Investing requires “walking in wisdom”, that your “Character’s Showing.” Read Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

List the character qualities of a follower of Jesus.

What area do you struggle with most? Why?

How can the Gospel help you grow in that area?

5. For Extra Study What do these verses have to say about investing in or caring for others?

1 John 3:18

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Proverbs 27:17

17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

James 2:15-17

15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good[a] is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Philippians 4:19

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

Application Questions

6. What tends to get in the way of you investing in others' lives? What is one thing you could change this week to start intentionally investing?

7. We are encouraged by Paul to pray for an open door to share the gospel. Who can you put on your Pi2 prayer list?

8. For the people on your Pi2 prayer list, What are some things you can pray for them about this week?

9. Take some time as a group to pray for each other and the people you look to share Jesus with this week.