



COLOSSIANS 4

It is easy to declare that Jesus is first in your life when the sun is shining and the bills are paid. It is entirely different to demonstrate His supremacy when you are locked in a Roman dungeon, chained to a guard, and facing execution. Yet, as the Apostle Paul closes his letter to the Colossians, he does not ask for a jailbreak, better food, or a more comfortable mattress. He asks for an open door for the Gospel. This staggering shift in perspective forces us to ask: Is Christ truly preeminent in the daily, gritty, and often painful realities of our lives?

In this final chapter, Pastor Steve challenges us to move beyond declaring and defending the supremacy of Christ to actually demonstrating it. This demonstration doesn't happen under the spotlight. It happens in the secret crucible of earnest prayer. It happens in the salty, grace-filled conversations we have with unbelievers at work. It happens in our willingness to quietly fulfill the unseen ministries God has handed us. As you work through this study, prepare to have your definition of "success" dismantled and replaced with the biblical standard of unwavering faithfulness.

Pastor Steve noted that demonstrating Christ's preeminence must happen in the secret place of prayer before it happens in public. Why is a vibrant public Christian persona dangerous if it is detached from a private prayer life? (OT: Psalm 51:6 | NT: Matthew 6:6)

Study Questions:

1. Paul commands us to "continue earnestly" in prayer, which means to not quit when we become impatient. What is a specific prayer request you have abandoned out of impatience that you need to bring back to the altar today? (OT: Habakkuk 2:3 | NT: Luke 18:1)
2. Paul was in chains, yet he prayed for the spread of the Gospel rather than his own physical release. How does this challenge our modern tendency to treat prayer primarily as an "escape hatch" from our discomforts? (OT: Daniel 3:17-18 | NT: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
3. When giving counsel to hurting believers, Pastor Steve warned against relying on our own opinions. Why is "I think" or "I feel" a dangerous substitute for "Thus says the Lord"? (OT: Proverbs 3:5-6 | NT: 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
4. You will not be judged by the size of your ministry, but by your faithfulness to it. How does this biblical metric of success free you from the exhausting pressure of comparing your life to others? (OT: Zechariah 4:10 | NT: Matthew 25:21)
5. Pastor Steve challenged everyone to have a 30, 60, and 120-second testimony ready. If you had exactly 30 seconds to explain the hope you have in Christ to a stranger, what would you say? (OT: Psalm 107:2 | NT: 1 Peter 3:15)