

The Reign of Christ the King ~ Sunday, November 26, 2017

“The Supremacy of Christ ~ Sacred Speech”

Colossians 4:2-18

“With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.” (James 3:9-10)

“Words flow out of what fills the heart.” (Matthew 12:34)

Our speech reflect what’s in our _____ and the kind of person we are. Because the tongue can speak so easily and is difficult to control, a person’s speech becomes the truest indicator of their _____ state.

“For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:7)

3 IMPORTANT MINISERIES OF SPEECH

#1. The Ministry of _____.

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving, praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word...” (Colossians 4:2)

Prayer is at once the sweetest _____ we’ll ever enjoy on earth, and also the severest _____ we’ll endure. In one sense, it’s simple; however, it’s also the most difficult part of the Christian life

4 IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

- _____.

Paul touches here on an often over looked aspect of prayer: _____.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

devote yourselves = *proskartereo* (*kartereo*) =

Paul is calling believers to be _____ and _____ in prayer.

“constant in prayer” (Romans 12:12)

“pray at all times” (Ephesians 6:18)

“pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Praying at all times isn’t necessarily limited to constant _____ of

prayers, but refers to a God-consciousness that relates every experience in life to Him—that we are in _____ fellowship with God, so that prayer becomes as normal to us as breathing

How devoted are you to prayer—how persistent are you?

- _____.

gregoreo =

Real prayer demands our full _____—it demands _____ and alertness. We need to be awake, alert, and active in praying—alive in the fullest sense, never careless or _____, but _____, inspired, and expectant—giving fully to it. This can only come from the _____.

“Stay here and keep watch...Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” (Mark 14:34, 38)

We are engaged in a spiritual _____, and we need to stay on high alert—we need to be watchful and ready—at all times.

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

When it comes to prayer, are you awake? How watchful are you?

- _____.

We should never engage in prayer without first thinking of at least one thing to be _____ for. _____ is a central ingredient in prayer.

“Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” (Philippians 4:6)

Gratitude is also a _____ to prayer—a way to put _____ into our praying.

How thankful are you? What role does gratitude play in your prayer life?

- _____.

Too often our prayers are _____ and _____.

Although God already _____ our prayers before we pray them, we still need to be _____ when we come to Him.

The purpose of prayer isn’t to get our will done in _____, but to get God’s will done on _____. Prayer is asking God for that which He wants to do and give, according to His _____.

“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.” (1 John 5:14-15)

Do you pray with purpose? How specific are your prayers?

#2. The Ministry of _____ the Word.

“...praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.” (Colossians 4:3-4)

A door =

“...a great door for effective work has opened to me.” (1 Corinthians 16:9)

“I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me.” (2 Corinthians 2:12)

“And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.” (Isaiah 22:22)

“See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.” (Revelation 3:8)

“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

The single greatest _____ in the life of every Christian is to share the _____.

How are you preaching the Gospel in your everyday life?

#3. The Ministry of _____.

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom towards outsiders, making the most of every opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each other.” (Colossians 4:6-5)

5 INSTRUCTIONS TO BALANCE OUR LIFE AND OUR LIPS

• **Be** _____.

“...as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

“...wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.” (Romans 16:19)

We need to be careful about how we _____ because people are making decisions about the _____ of Christianity based on how we're _____.

How wise are you? What is your life saying about your faith?

• **Make the most of** _____.

We are to take _____ of, and buy up every opportunity to speak for Christ when we see one.

Are you making the most of the opportunities you have every day? Are you accomplishing as much spiritual good as you can in your relationships?

• **Be** _____.

It's important that we communicate with words of _____ when we speak to those who don't know Christ.

When we're filled with anger, people feel _____, not _____. We need to seek to be more like Jesus, who was the perfect _____ of both grace and truth.

How gracious are your words? Do you speak out of judgement of love?

• **Be** _____.

When we talk about our faith—when we share our testimony—how can we not be _____ and excited? Salty speech makes people _____ for more.

How appetizing is your testimony? How salty are your words?

• **Be** _____.

When we're speaking to those who don't know Christ, we need to be ready to answer their _____.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15)

- tell your _____.
- Tell _____ story.
- _____ them to church or an event for seekers.

†

The key is to cultivate _____ with God by bowing to the _____ and Lordship of Jesus. Prayer and evangelism flow out of our _____ with Jesus.

We won't really pray until we see prayer as a way to express our _____ to Jesus. And it is impossible share our faith—to salt our speech with the deliciousness of Jesus—if we haven't been _____ the taste ourselves.

Who is sitting on the throne in my life? Who is king? Who has all the power and supremacy? Me or Jesus?