



FIGHT THE
GOOD FIGHT



FEBRUARY

2023

GALATIANS -
COLOSSIANS

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

“...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____

I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

How can you tell if someone is a true servant of Jesus or simply a religious person? The answer is found in today's reading. Paul wrote this letter to refute incorrect teaching the church in Galatia was receiving. After Paul left for another region, someone began teaching wrong doctrine. How could the believers in this church identify who was speaking the truth? First, by examining the motives of the teachers. Paul's goal was to please God and not men (vs10). Unlike other teachers, his words were not motivated by gaining the approval or acceptance of these people. Second, by closely examining the message. Paul's message did not come from his personal experiences, his own ideas, or from someone else who taught him. His message came from God. Therefore, he could be trusted and his message could be believed. Likewise today, a true servant of God is characterized by right motives and a right message. What is your motive and message? Is your life about love for God or yourself? Is your message from God? Use today's questions to take a closer look.

SAY WHAT?

How can you tell what someone's motivation is?

SO WHAT?

How can you tell if someone's message is correct?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways do you demonstrate love for God? In what ways do you demonstrate love for yourself?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

GALATIANS 1

PROVERBS 30

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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We learned yesterday what motivated Paul. What did today's chapter reveal to you about the motivation of false teachers? If we look closely, we see they wanted to take away freedom in Christ and make people slaves (vs 4). These teachers wanted the believers to depend on them to identify what was right and what was wrong. Paul was different. He wanted these people to know and depend on God's Word and the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them. Paul wanted these believers to develop a relationship with God and learn to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul's desire was to help them know Jesus and learn to depend on God and His Word, not on him. Do you study the Bible for yourself so that you know what it says? Can make decisions guided by the Holy Spirit? Are you dependent on others to tell you what is right and wrong? Are you spending time each day developing your relationship with God and His Word? Commit yourself to developing these skills and allowing the godly leadership in your life to help you along the way.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 2

GALATIANS 3:1-14

OUR SALVATION

SAY WHAT?

If you are saved, what was the circumstances that led to your salvation? If not, what is stopping you?

SO WHAT?

In what ways has your life changed since following Jesus?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways can you share the truth you have heard?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Throughout his letter, Paul gave proof to the Galatians that trying to earn salvation and grow spiritually by following the Law was wrong. In today's reading, he gave them another example of how faulty the information from some of their leaders was. Did you notice it as you read these verses? Paul asked each of them to examine their lives in order to determine what to believe. Paul had clearly communicated the message of the Gospel to them. They knew that Jesus had died to pay for their sins. They knew that the requirements were trusting Jesus and accepting the salvation He offered by faith. They were justified by faith because they believed what they heard. Paul's example of Abraham further illustrated this truth. Take a look at your own life. If you are saved, has as your life changed since you trusted Jesus? Did it change because you followed a religious system of good works? No! It changed because of Jesus. We need to let people know that salvation and change comes not from doing good works, but by the work of Jesus. Are you telling them? Does your life support your message?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 3

If following the Law or doing works does not bring about transformation or a right relationship with God, what was the purpose of the Law that God gave to Moses? According to verse 24, it was given to bring us to Jesus. Jesus is our only means of becoming righteous. The Law cannot make us righteous. The purpose of the Law was to reveal our need of a Savior. It shows us that it is not possible to earn our way to heaven through doing good works. It is a standard that is too high for any human to achieve. The Law shows us our need for another way to gain access to God. It demonstrates our sinfulness and ultimately leads us to the Savior. The Law enables us to see that the only way we can gain access to God is through faith in Jesus Christ. Through Him we become sons of God. We are not slaves who follow a system in order to gain favor. Without a standard (the Law), we would not know how short we have fallen or how much help we need. There are so many people who are trying to earn their way to God and don't realize that Jesus Christ has already done the work. Are you trying to earn your way to God? Who do you know that needs to hear this truth?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 3

GALATIANS 4:8-20

WASTED?

SAY WHAT?

Name a couple of people who have invested time and energy into your life?

SO WHAT?

In what ways have they impacted your life?

NOW WHAT?

How can you demonstrate to them that their efforts have not been in vain?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Think of an individual or two who have invested time and effort in your life to help you grow in your relationship with God. As they evaluate your spiritual journey to this point, how do you think they feel about the time and effort they have devoted to your life? Paul, in verse 11 of today's reading, makes a statement that ought to cause us to think about this very question. He invested a lot of time in the lives of the believers in the church of Galatia. Most of his time was devoted to studying the Word, teaching it carefully, and trying to build relationships with them to help them grow spiritually. If they began to fall away and believe the false teachers, he feared his effort would have been in vain. Had the Galatians ignored the truth and lived as though they had never heard it, Paul's many hours of patient teaching would have been for nothing. It is discouraging to work to ensure that someone knows the truth and how to apply it, only to see them disregard it by word or deed. It must break the hearts of parents, pastors, and friends who try diligently to help us, only to see the truth rejected. As you examine your life, how do you think they feel about where you are now?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 4

Today we learn in more detail about what the false teachers were actually teaching and how it influenced this church. According to verses 2-3, the false teachers were instructing them to be circumcised and follow the Law in order to become righteous and know for certain that they were saved. They had eliminated faith from salvation and made it works-based instead. If someone believes that in order to be saved they must follow certain rules, their belief actually denies that faith in Jesus alone is enough to save them. They also would conclude that what Jesus did on the cross helps, but it is not sufficient to get us to heaven. Another logical conclusion they would make is that it is also their responsibility to live a righteous life to ensure favor with God. What Jesus Christ did on the cross is all we need to get to heaven. We cannot earn it, nor do we need to add to it. It is all we need. When we trust Jesus, we become His children and serve Him from hearts of love and gratitude. We do not need to earn His love or acceptance. He gives it to us freely. Is your heart filled with gratitude? How is that gratitude demonstrated?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 5

GALATIANS 5:13-26

FRUIT, NOT WORKS

SAY WHAT?

How are the acts of the sinful nature demonstrated in my life? (5:19-21)

SO WHAT?

In what ways do I see the fruit of the Spirit in my life? (5:22-26)

NOW WHAT?

What can I do to diminish the acts of the sinful nature and increase the fruit of the Spirit in my life?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can I make in light of today's reading?

If our actions cannot gain us favor with God, and we are not to live according to lists of right and wrong, can we do whatever we want once we are saved? Not according to Paul. Paul writes that we are not to live by rules, but by the Spirit. He realizes that it could be possible for some to interpret his statements as a license to sin. They could use their freedom in Jesus to do whatever they want and then justify their behavior. Paul wrote to correct that reasoning. Instead, they were to learn what the Bible says, and then allow the Holy Spirit to lead them to live accordingly. Those that follow Jesus should live by the Spirit, not by the sinful nature. How are you doing in this area? Use today's questions to help you determine the steps you need to take to increase your dependence on the Holy Spirit.

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 5

How important are other Christians to you? Are they a priority in your life? In today's reading, Paul finishes with an interesting phrase that we could easily overlook. It is found in verse 10. His closing admonitions to the Galatians were to be careful of the false teachers, to be careful what is sown, and not to become weary in doing good. He then closed his letter encouraging them to take every opportunity to do good to all people. Then he added the phrase, "especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Other believers ought to be the priority of our lives. We ought to care for each other and seek ways to meet each other's needs because of our relationship to each other through Jesus. Does your life reflect this priority? In what ways have you demonstrated love to other Christians recently? How can you get started today?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
GALATIANS 6

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

FOR THIS REASON

SAY WHAT?

How would you describe your prayer life?

SO WHAT?

What do you pray for when you pray for those around you?

NOW WHAT?

What would you need to change in your prayer life to be able to pray the way Paul did?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

What motivates you to pray for people? What motivated the Apostle Paul to pray for the believers in the church at Ephesus? The answer is found in verse 15 of today's reading. In verses 1-14, Paul listed the things that are true of everyone who knows Jesus as Savior. We learn that they are chosen, predestined to be adopted, and are saved because the message of the Gospel was made known to them. At the moment of salvation, they are sealed with the Holy Spirit, which guarantees they can never lose their salvation. Paul thanked God for what He had done in their lives every time he thought of these people. He also prayed for their continued spiritual growth. He wanted them to know God more, and have greater hope and power in their lives. Do you pray for people in the same way Paul did? If not, today would be a good day to get started.

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 1

Have you ever noticed that a small, seemingly insignificant word can be of such great importance? Today, we see one of those words in verse 4. Did you notice it? In verses 1-3, Paul described what our lives were like before we trusted Jesus. He wrote that we were dead in our sin and were without hope. In fact, we could not help ourselves and had no hope of changing because we were dead. Then that key word "BUT." If that word was not included, the following 6 verses would not be possible. While it is true that we were once dead in our sin, God graciously provided life for us because of His great love. He made eternal life available to those who believe what He said. As a result, we now are alive in Him. But, do not miss the purpose of our salvation found in verse 10. God did this for us to be able to perform the good works He prepared in advance for us to do. God did not give you salvation just to prevent you from spending eternity in hell. He saved you to accomplish something very specific on earth today. Do you know what He expects you to be doing right now? Are you doing it? Better get started.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 2

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

MORE LIKE JESUS

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Why is it true that so few Christians actually experience all God has for their lives? It may be that they have not understood what Paul says in this chapter. To be able to experience all God has provided, you must be strengthened in your inner man. There is no quick or easy way to strengthen your inner man. You simply must be committed to reading your Bible, prayer, accountability, and engaging in Biblical community over a long period of time. You will begin to gain the power to understand the love of God, have victory over sin, and begin to see yourself becoming more and more like Jesus. When this process is fulfilled, verse 20 becomes a reality. Your life will never be the same. Are you experiencing all God has for you? If not, what is one area you are struggling to stay faithful in and what will you do about it?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 3

What is the grace that is spoken about in verse 7? How does the answer impact our understanding of this passage? As we read the text and look at other passages of Scripture, we find that the grace Paul referred to here is our spiritual gifts. These gifts were given when we trusted Jesus as Savior. In fact, when we understand Paul's meaning here, what follows is even more significant. Paul explains that God, in grace, has given each believer a spiritual gift. The gift we receive is determined by the Holy Spirit. There is nothing we can do to change the gift given to us. God has appointed the church to help us use and develop our gifts. When we use what we have been given in the way God has intended, the church is built up. Then, we will no longer be tossed back and forth, but will be sure of what we believe. What gift has God given to you? In what way does God want you to use them? Are you developing and using what you've been given?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 4

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

A PROCESS

SAY WHAT?

How can you protect yourself from becoming darkened in your understanding?

SO WHAT?

How can you protect yourself from becoming separated from God?

NOW WHAT?

How can you protect yourself from developing a hardened heart?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Have you ever known someone whose behavior makes you wonder if they have any conscience at all? How can a person get to this point in their life? According to today's passage, it involves a process, and it does not happen overnight. First, this person becomes darkened in their understanding. They do not allow the light of God in their life and lose any ability to clearly understand the truth. This lack of understanding leads them to be separated from God. God has no place in their life and they deliberately shut Him out. Why? Their heart has become hardened due to ignorance. When all of this takes place, they lose all sensitivity and indulge in every kind of sin. They do not, however, find any satisfaction and continually indulge. When someone chooses to shut God out, they begin walking a road that leads to behavior that today seems impossible. We must carefully guard our hearts and minds to prevent any movement away from God. How are you protecting yourself from this process? Use today's questions to help you build a strategy to ensure you do not take that first step.

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 4

A HINT

EPHESIANS 5:1-21

What would the definition of "a hint of" be? What kinds of behavior would fall into this category? We would all agree that a hint of something is a very small amount. With that in mind, Paul's use of the word in today's reading is very important. He tells us that there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, of any kind of impurity, or of greed. He goes on to say that there should be no obscenity, no foolish talk, and no coarse joking. There should be not even a trace of them in our lives. This is a pretty high standard, but we are God's people and we need to act like it. We are called to a higher standard than others. As you examine your own life, how do you measure up to this standard? What specific areas fall short? What needs to change to make sure there is not even a hint of sin in your life?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 5

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

FUTURE HUSBANDS

SAY WHAT?

In what ways would a guy demonstrate sacrificial love?

SO WHAT?

In what ways would a guy demonstrate purifying love?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways would a guy demonstrate caring love?

THEN WHAT?

In what ways would a guy demonstrate unbreakable love?

How can you tell if the guy you are dating would be a godly husband? How can a guy tell if he would be a godly husband? Is there any way we can know? You can use today's reading as a guide. Paul gives four kinds of love husbands are to demonstrate. First, husbands are to have sacrificial love (vs 25). A guy demonstrates this kind of love by not always wanting his own way. Second, husbands are to demonstrate purifying love (vs 26-27). A guy would demonstrate this by seeking purity as his priority. He would never violate Scripture's commands. Third, husbands are to demonstrate caring love (vs 28-29). He is never harsh, mean, or unkind. Fourth, he is to demonstrate unbreakable love (vs 31). He is loyal to his family, friends, and God. Use today's questions to help identify what characteristics to look for in a guy. Guys, use them to see what characteristics to develop as a future husband. If you are already married, are you exhibiting these characteristics?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 5

As followers of Jesus, who is our enemy? Who is it that we are fighting? Today's reading reminds us who we are fighting and how to win the battle against our enemy. Verse 12 states that our battle is not with people, but with the forces of hell. Our parents, friends, teachers, boss, government, or any authorities in our lives are not the enemy we battle against. We struggle against spiritual forces who are working against us. How do we fight these battles? We must use the armor that Paul describes for us in verses 14-18. Each piece is designed to help us successfully fight spiritual battles. Verse 18 mentions an often overlooked addition to the armor listed in this passage. It is prayer! We are told that we need to pray on ALL occasions with ALL kinds of prayers and requests. Too often, we fight, struggle, and try to fix our problems, never taking them to God in prayer. Prayer is one of the most valuable tools we have to fight and win our spiritual battles. Unfortunately, we save prayer as a last resort or, worse yet, don't pray at all. How often are you using this weapon? What battle are you fighting that you need to pray about right now? Why not get started?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
EPHESIANS 6

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

BIG PICTURE

SAY WHAT?

What kinds of small picture circumstances discourage us?

SO WHAT?

What might God be working to accomplish?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to become more of a big picture kind of person?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

How could Paul continue to rejoice in the situation he was in? He was in chains, but yet, at peace. Can we find the same strength Paul did when we face difficult times? We can if we learn to have a big picture perspective like he did. Paul refused to concentrate on current circumstances. He saw the big picture and realized that God was accomplishing great things, even if he was personally uncomfortable. He was in chains, but the whole palace guard heard the message of the Gospel because of Paul's circumstances. He was in prison but, due to his suffering, many followers of Jesus had the courage to speak out for Him. His suffering was intentionally made worse, but more people than ever were hearing the Gospel message. Paul knew that God was in control, and while the small picture outlook was bleak, the big picture was exciting! Paul could rejoice because God was being glorified. Is this your perspective? Are you focusing on the small picture of your present circumstances and how they affect you? What could the big picture be? Use today's questions to help you.

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 1

Isn't it convicting when God uses specific words in a verse that make it impossible to justify our behavior or attitudes? Today's passage has one of those words. It is the word "nothing" found in verse 3. Paul tells us that we are to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. That leaves no room for excuses. We are never to do anything out of a selfish desire to make ourselves look good. Our motives should never be for attention or personal recognition. We should never manipulate or do something to make people feel obligated to us. Instead, we are to always consider others better than ourselves. We are to think about what is best for them. As a follower of Jesus, we have a high standard to live up to. How do you measure up to what God expects? Are others a priority in your life? What specific area of your life has God spoken to you about today?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 2

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

MOTIVATION

SAY WHAT?

What motivation might someone have for doing good things?

SO WHAT?

How can you tell what your motivation is?

NOW WHAT?

How can you tell if your motivation is simply to know God better?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Why do you go to church? Why do you read your Bible? Why do you serve at church? The answer to those questions is very important. It would be a pity to do the right things for the wrong reasons and not gain what God intended. In today's reading, we learn how the Apostle Paul came to realize that, at one time, his own motivations were wrong. He was doing good things, but he was doing them in order to gain favor with God, not out of love for God. That all changed, and his motivation became to know God. He wanted to have an intimate relationship with God. God had become real to him. What is your motivation for what you do? Ask God to help you change your motivation.

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 3

SATISFIED?

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

What words would you use to describe your spiritual life? Take some time to write down a few. As you look at those words, do they indicate that you are satisfied with where you are spiritually? If anyone could be satisfied with his spiritual level, it would be the Apostle Paul. But, look at what he says in today's reading. In verses 12 and 13, he says he has not yet obtained all he should in his relationship with God. So, he continued to press on. He was not satisfied with his knowledge of the Bible, so he studied more. He was not content with the victory he had over sin in his life, so he worked even harder. He had spoken the message of Jesus boldly and many were saved, but he wanted to become even better at sharing Jesus. He forgot what was behind and pressed on to greater growth. Are you pressing on in your relationship with God? Are you reading your Bible more than you did last year? Are you having greater victory over sin? Never be satisfied.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 3

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

SUCH THINGS

Word	Meaning
True	Something verifiable, reality vs. mere appearance. Something dependable, open, honest, manifested to all. Not perception or opinion. Sincere, upright.
Noble	Worthy of praise, serious, having dignity or worth. Not vulgar.
Right	Fair, just, honest, proper, not wrong meaning, false or untrue. Innocence, not deception or manipulation.
Pure	Holy, clean, separate from sin, chastity, meaning free from sexual sin. Innocent, blameless, modest.
Lovely	Compound word meaning toward/love. Attractive, agreeable, pleasing to all. Does not bring strife, hostility, resentment etc.
Admirable	Things deserving of a good reputation, bring personal credit, speak well of. Things which do not promote scandal.
Excellent	Goodness, virtue, something of value, deserving of public acclaim. Moral excellence, goodness of action.
Praiseworthy	Commendable, something for others to boast about, bringing applause.

In this passage is one of the greatest verses in the Bible on how to control our minds. We are told to only think about things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy. Since our minds control our behavior, we must be certain that only right thoughts are permitted to remain. Use the definitions provided today to evaluate what thoughts you allow in your mind. If any of your thoughts do not qualify, they are wrong and should not be allowed to remain. If you see problem areas, build a strategy to change. If you need help, ask. Make sure you are only thinking about the right things.

EXTRA READING
PHILIPPIANS 4

If a friend from school or work were to ask you who Jesus Christ is, how would you answer them? What Scripture would you refer to that explains who He is? You could turn to this chapter to answer their question. Paul gives us some incredible details about Jesus' identity. Not only does this passage tell us who Jesus Christ is, it also reveals to us what He has done. For example, vs. 21 tells us that once we were alienated from God and enemies in our minds but, through the death of Jesus Christ, we were reconciled to God. Jesus came to this earth and took on the form of a man. He lived a perfect life and paid the debt of sin through His death on the cross. We can have peace with God because of the blood He shed on the cross. Why not take some time today to reflect on who Jesus is and what He has done for you. In fact, use today's questions to help you. You might even want to share it with others. This Scripture is too important to just keep to ourselves.

SAY WHAT?

Who does this passage tell me Jesus Christ is?

SO WHAT?

What does this passage tell me Jesus Christ did?

NOW WHAT?

What should my response be to what I have written above?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 1

COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

ALL HIS ENERGY

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What is the most important thing in your life? What consumes most of your time and thoughts? How do you spend your money? Hopefully, it is the same thing that Paul described in today's reading. Paul was motivated by what Jesus had done in his life and he wanted everyone, everywhere, to know this amazing truth. All his thoughts and energies were consumed by letting others know what Jesus had done for him. His relationship with Jesus was so amazing that he simply could not keep quiet. If having others come to know Jesus meant labor and hard work on his part, then he was willing. All his energy was devoted to letting people know that Jesus Christ was the answer in their lives. Do you have this kind of commitment? Where is all your effort and energy devoted to? In light of what Christ has given you, how can you not make sharing Him your #1 ambition? Examine your life and see what needs to change.

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 1

What error was being taught in this church that Paul was so afraid people would follow? Why would those errors be so damaging? While Paul did not name them directly, we can see from his warnings that they fell into three categories—legalism, mysticism, and asceticism. Legalism attacks the sufficiency of Jesus by saying you need Jesus, AND you must also follow other rules and regulations. Paul says, in verses 9-12, that Jesus paid the price for us. Mysticism attacks Christianity by teaching that you not only need Jesus, but you also need a deeper, higher, religious experience. Paul explained, in verses 16-19, that the people who teach this have lost connection with God. Jesus has given us all we need. Asceticism attacks Jesus by teaching that we not only need Jesus, but we also need to live a life of self-denial. It teaches that we must live in poverty. Paul, however, says in verses 20-23, that while this may look spiritual, living this way has no power over sin. Your salvation has given you all you need. You need nothing else but Jesus and His Word! Have any of these errors affected your understanding? How can you change it?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 2

PROVERBS 31

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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This chapter teaches us how to put into practice what we learned yesterday in Colossians 2. Paul tells us that since human standards and regulations do not give us any power over sin, we are to set our hearts and minds on things above. What motivates us and occupies our thoughts ought to be eternal. How do we do this? He explains in this chapter the process we must go through. Let's focus on the last three. In verse 15, he tells us we accomplish this by letting the peace of Christ RULE in our hearts. The word means to umpire or govern over. In verse 16, we are told to do this by letting the Word of God, which is the Bible, DWELL in us. That word means to inhabit, abide, or remain in. Finally, we are told in verse 17, that we do this by DOING everything in the name of God. That means that we are always aware of our dependence on God. We live under God's authority and are His representatives in this world. Are you doing these three? Use today's questions to begin changing. Remember, it is not through rules, a religious experience, or self denial that we gain spiritual maturity. It is through Jesus and His Word.

SAY WHAT?

In what ways can you begin to allow the peace of Christ to rule in your heart?

SO WHAT?

In what ways can you begin to allow the Word of God to dwell in you richly?

NOW WHAT?

In what ways can you begin to do everything in the name of God?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make in light of what this passage teaches?

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 3

COLOSSIANS 4:1-6

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How many opportunities in a typical day do you have to impact others? How many opportunities did you have yesterday to give a word of encouragement to someone who was really discouraged and ready to give up? How many opportunities will you have today to help someone make an important decision? How many opportunities will you have tomorrow to share something about your faith that will encourage someone to think about their relationship with Jesus? How many opportunities will you have to demonstrate to someone who is watching the difference that Jesus Christ makes in your life? Paul closed this letter with an important admonition. He told them to make the most of every opportunity. What a great prayer for you each day. "Today, God help me to see the opportunities to impact others and make the most of every opportunity You send my way." Why not start each day with this simple prayer and watch what God does in your life!

EXTRA READING
COLOSSIANS 4



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HEBREWS 6:19-20

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