

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER Oct-Nov 2018

I (David) recently read Colossians 1:15-17 during my morning time alone with God

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together...”

If this were all I knew of Jesus, I would rightly conclude that He is **THE ONLY WORTHY OBJECT OF WORSHIP**. He pre-existed creation; He created all things for Himself; He is the super glue that holds all of life together. There is no close second to Jesus in the Universe! He deserves my undivided adoration. Anyone serious about worshipping a god would have to be blind not to see that Jesus is THE ONE.

And get this - that's **BEFORE** we even consider the **cross** and **resurrection**! When we add these to His already preeminent position in the universe, there are no superlatives! The greatness of Jesus explodes in our mind and heart!

“For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to **reconcile** all things to Himself, having made **peace through the blood of His cross**.” Col 1:19-20

“For He **rescued** us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have **redemption, the forgiveness of sins**.” Col 1:13-14

The same day I was being overcome by Jesus' ultimate worthiness, I saw TV coverage of a Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House. The Medal of Honor is the highest military award, presented for selfless courage and valor on behalf of comrades in the face of overwhelming enemy opposition. US Airman, Sgt John Chapman was being awarded the medal posthumously for his 2002 actions in Afghanistan.

“Even though he was mortally wounded John regained consciousness and continued to fight on... Through his extraordinary sacrifice, John helped save more than 20 American service members.”

Receiving the medal of honor catapults the recipient to the highest level of reverence. Just watching the sacredness of the ceremony made my heart well up. How much more did those hearts well up in the audience who were directly saved by Sgt Chapman's bravery!



Indeed, You and I, also, are the objects of a great rescue. Our Rescuer was imminently great before His ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. We were not his comrades...we were His enemy (Rom 5:10). And still He rescued us (Col 1:13-14). May we honor Him with the highest level of reverence. And may our personal worship of Him this week in our churches reflect the fact that HE is our supreme treasure.

Ministry Prayer & Praise

FORUMS We are well underway with our fall season of forums. Our overall theme is **Built 2 Bless** coming out of Colossians. Pray in the theme verse, Colossians 2:6,7:

“As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”

Pray that God would lead men to receive Christ this forum season and that He would empower men to walk in Him, be built-up in Him and overflow for Him. **Tim Hanley** and **Ryan Barber** have launched a **new Wed AM forum** downtown, making a total of 9 throughout greater Columbia. Finally, pray that many in our forums would find ways to apply our “Built to **Bless**” theme in the context of disaster relief on the SC coast.

DISCIPLESHIP 105 men are enrolled in our current GRIP season of discipleship. Pray that these rhythms would be solidified this fall in each of the men: 1) meeting with God in His Word, 2) man to man encouragement, and 3) sanctified effort in a few personal action points. Pray that the GRIP planning team of **Tim, Sinclair, Karl, German, Perry, and David** would listen to the Spirit as we lead this season. We praise God that some local churches are taking this “play” we call GRIP and “running it” in their context. Columbia Crossroads Church has 130 folks in their discipleship tracks modeled after GRIP. The remaining gatherings fall on these dates: **Oct 22, Nov 12, Dec 3**.

FINANCES Our monthly donations YTD through Aug have trailed our expenses by 16%. We continue to be blown away that God has provided for this ministry for 25 years and we place our full confidence in Him.

CALENDAR

- Oct 7** – **Wired Outreach Event** – Forum on Stress, Adversity, Worry, Priorities hosted by Ricky Ward and Bill Addison
- Oct 15** – David Andes speaking at Columbia Crossroads Discipleship ministry called “Follow”
- Oct 22** – Independent GRIP Team meetings (17 small groups)
- Oct 27** – Perry leads a disaster relief team of men to help the flood victims of hurricane Florence last month.
- Nov 12** – GRIP Large Gathering
- Nov 18** – David Andes Preaches at Columbia Crossroads
- Dec 3** – Last GRIP Large Gathering for fall

Bowers' Family Prayer

Perry – My focus word/phrase for this year is “Die To Self” (Luke 9:23-25). Praise that Janet re-upped for another 43 years! Pray that I would be a great encourager to my family, friends and men in the ministry.

Janet – Commitment to exercise and quiet time amidst various ladies to encourage. Invest deeply in the grands during this brief window before they are 18 and ‘fly away’ to live their own lives.

Joy & Eddie –Consistency in parenting in shepherding 7th, 5th, 2nd and 1st graders!

Megan & Marc – Marc is in the final lap of his dissertation at Mich State. In new parenting stage with kids. Thankful for Megan’s new job transition this fall.

Andes' Family Prayer

David and Katherine–In the midst of our largely “programmed” weeks, that we would abide in Him and love whoever God brings our way. We both share a sense of sadness as many long-time friends in our neighborhood have moved away in this last year.

Austin(20) – Pray in the “peace from above” for Austin, who seems to exist in an agitated, edgy state. Praise that he is recapturing his love for music.

Cameron(15) – Pray that over these teenage years would Cameron would find his “groove” and increasingly appreciate his God given divine design and his God given life situation.

Wright Family Prayer

- Direction on new or next church building with favor and wisdom on financing
- Financial breakthrough on car issues
- Congratulations to Caleb as he was one of 23 film makers selected for the Wide Angle Project through the SC Film Commission and Indie Grants. Continue guidance and direction for Caleb's career path.

Reed Family Prayer

- We are praising God for the news that Jessica is pregnant and due in April! Please pray for Jessica as she deals with the physical struggles of being pregnant, and for both of us as we prepare for this addition to our family.
- Please pray for me as I continue to seek God's direction and leading for my future in ministry.
- Pray that I would continue to rest, and find my strength, in the power of the Gospel and my intimacy with The Father as I minister to the men God has put around me.

Sinclair Salters Prayer

- Wisdom for decision making regarding next steps in our inner city ministry, 4Runners4Christ
- God’s covering for my family (provision, protection, leading)
- Living a Holy Spirit fueled life, modeling authenticity and Gospel dependency as I disciple the men God has brought my way.
- Pray for resolution of some Financial/ Property issues