

Agape Baptist Church – November 12, 2017

Christian, Stay Watchful! - *Colossians 4:2-4*

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. Col 4:2-4

Life-Truth: Our degree of vigilance will be in direct proportion to our awareness of danger and our sense of urgency.

Question 1: Why is being watchful a key part of the Christian life? Three realities from scripture:

- First, we are continually tangled in spiritual battles, even though we do not always perceive them.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against...the spiritual forces of evil...keep alert with all perseverance. Further Reading: Ephesians 6

- Second, we have an opponent who seeks out targets that are unaware, so that he might overwhelm them.

Be sober minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Pt 5:8

- Some evil traps are hardly noticed, disguised as choices between two seemingly good options.

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- Some evil traps are hardly noticed, disguised as choices between two seemingly good options.

- Third, our natural man (flesh) is **helpless** against the **temptations** that evil stirs.

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak. Mark 14:38

You can **drift** into sin, but not into righteousness. – L. Morris

God is eager to provide strength to His people, so a lack of it is a result of our neglect, not His. We should not presume upon this strength. It comes as we draw closer to Christ. Each day we make the choice: How important is life **in Christ** to us? – adapted from K. Snogross

Question 2: How do we maintain spiritual vigilance in the Christian life? (**Col 2:6-7**)

- Through constant, persistent **Prayer** (in the Spirit).
 - **Further Reading:** Col 4:2, Eph 6:18, Mark 14:38
 - **Communication** is the life-blood of relationship.

When we pray, the Spirit of God interacts with us and as a result we are empowered and instructed by Him. While all of life cannot be a quiet time, all of life is to be prayed. We are to continually commune with Christ, assessing life and its circumstances through prayer – adapted from K. Snogross

- Through choosing **gratitude** (a heart of thanksgiving).
 - Gratitude protects us from **disillusionment** and **bitterness** (toward God and others).
- Through steadfast **adherence** to biblical **convictions**.
 - **Further Reading:** 1 Peter 5:9; Romans 10:17

We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. Hebrews 2:1

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