

# THE REVOLUTION

CHRIST ENTHRONED. HUMAN EXISTENCE REDEFINED.

## Sunday 15th July 2018

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Colossians 4:2-11

Small Talk Refined

As you prepare for these questions, please ask the Holy Spirit for his help.

- 1) In some Bibles, verses 2-6 are headed as “An Encouragement for Prayer”. As you read just that heading, what are your first thoughts? Is your focus automatically on the “encouragement” or on “prayer” or both, for what the following verses may be leading to? Can you give reasons why you feel that way?
- 2) Verse 3 refers to “that God will give us many opportunities...” What do you see that to mean and what may these opportunities look like? Can you give examples?
- 3) In the same verse, Paul says “that is why I am here in chains”. What is the connection between the two parts of verse 3?
- 4) In our everyday lives, what are the opportunities we each have to proclaim the gospel? Please consider this from the place where each individual is at. Does proclaiming the gospel seem difficult? If anyone in your group feels that way, perhaps that is an opportunity for others to pray into that person’s area of concern. Would you consider doing that now before you continue!
- 5) When you pray, what is your expectation of the outcome? We know that God hears all our prayers, but do we have a doubt that some of our more “impossible” prayers, which are also heard by God, are less likely to be answered? Discuss your reasons, also being aware there may be a variety of greatly differing answers.
- 6) Verse 6 implies that our conversations, particularly with non-believers, need to be “gracious” and “attractive”. In your opinion what does that look like and at the same time should our conversations with fellow believers also be gracious and attractive? Please discuss.



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- 7) In verse 9 Paul refers to Onesimus a “faithful and beloved brother”. In the book of Philemon, Paul also refers to Onesimus on the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation. When we pray, how important are themes like forgiveness and reconciliation to receiving answers to even “impossible” situations. Please discuss.
- 8) On this topic of prayer, you will probably be aware of “shopping list” prayers. Where does worship come into prayer and what does that look like? Please discuss.
- 9) Have you individually or as part of this group spent time in prayer just worshipping God for who He is? It may surprise you that many Christians have some difficulty doing this. Your group may even care to try this at the end of these questions. And just to ensure the focus is purely on God, try and not even thank Him for anything as this can also bring the focus partly down to us.
- 10) Regardless of where we are each at, our approach to God has to be evolving, in that we must become more aware of His presence. At the same time remembering how absolutely big He is and that we must rely on Him for everything. We are in effect always wearing “L” plates. Please discuss.

As you finish, please thank the Holy Spirit for His help.

