

Believing Better Than We Behave

(Colossians 4:2-3,12)

- Introduction:
1. I think all would acknowledge that belief is much easier than obedience.
 2. Translating our beliefs into practice is often difficult, and sometimes we find it easier to just surrender to our deficiency.
 3. In this lesson, I want us to consider if our belief in prayer is better than the way we behave in regard to prayer.

I. What We Should Believe About Prayer

- A. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- B. James 5:16.
- C. 1 John 5:14.
- D. Matthew 7:7.
- E. Philippians 4:6.

II. How We Should Behave Regarding Prayer

- A. Labor in prayer.
 1. (Colossians 4:12).
 2. Agonizing in prayer; struggling in prayer; striving as in the agony of a contest.
 3. When is the last time you prayed like this?
 4. We like everything to be easy, and I think we may have misrepresented the nature of prayer as an “easy” thing to do.
- B. Labor in prayer for others.
 1. (Colossians 4:3, 12).
 2. We may be able to think of times when we have “labored” in prayer, but who was the object of those prayers?
 3. When have we labored in prayer for others?
 4. Does our love for others and their eternal well-being need to grow?
- C. Labor in prayer with thanksgiving.
 1. (Colossians 4:2).
 2. In prayer, we do a lot of “asking.”
 3. Oftentimes, we receive much but fail to say, “Thank you.”

- Conclusion:
1. After examining this passage from Colossians, we might discover that we have some work to do.
 2. It is my desire that our behavior rise to the level of our belief, and that our belief be rooted in Scripture.