

## **Weekly Devotional by Pastor Ken Nabi**

March 25, 2010

### **Pray for Open Doors**

*“Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should....” Colossians 4:4*

The Apostle Paul is writing to the Colossian Church and his closing chapter asks for prayer. Paul starts chapter 4 by saying that the believers must “devote themselves to prayer”. He then asks for prayer for himself and his companions who are suffering imprisonment as a result of sharing the truths about Jesus the savior and messiah. Included in his request for prayer was the plea that God would open a door for them to continue to share the gospel of Christ. But, Paul does not stop by asking for open doors. He asks for preparedness and clarity.

Paul, in the above quoted verse, is asking for people to pray that when the doors do open, that he would step up to those opportunities by telling people who Jesus is and what He has done. Paul wants to make the most of every opportunity by getting it clear and right. Making sure that the message of Jesus is portrayed clearly and biblically is no small matter. Paul condemns anyone who proclaims a different gospel (Galatians 1:8) than the one that is drenched in the blood-bought redemption purchased by Jesus.

Will you pray that for me? I will pray it for you. This time in our country’s calendar often stimulates religious conversations—open doors. Many will attend church for a single shot and wonder if it will be relevant in any way to their daily life. Many will be open to more candid conversation about spiritual matters. The climate of our country has people anxious, fearful, and concerned about the future—more open doors! I pray that you proclaim it clearly when you are interacting around the dinner table or in the family gathering afterwards.

Do you know what to say or how to express the hope you have in Jesus Christ? Are you clear why Jesus had to die on the cross? The answer to who Jesus is, what he did, and how we must respond are at the heart of the message needing to be proclaimed. And Paul wanted to get right, and I want you to get it right.

Here is the message of Easter.

Because we are all moral failures, we are separated from a holy and loving God who condemns those who are less than perfect (which is all humanity!). In short, you and I sin. To pay the penalty of our sin, Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless life amongst humanity showing them how loving God really is. Then, Jesus let himself be tortured and killed to pay our penalty for failure and thus take care of the wrath of a holy God who cannot tolerate sin. In triumph, He was raised from the grave as the ultimate declaration of God’s love and satisfaction with His Son.

When we repent (turn our lives around) and turn in faith to Jesus (by following him), we are accepting his payment on the cross in our place. The grace of God poured out through faith changes us forever and our standing before God immediately is transformed. We become his sons and are declared righteous. You then enter into relationship with the God of all creation and

can spend the rest of life on earth following Jesus and preparing for eternity with the God of all creation. This is why Jesus came to earth and it is His victory over death and sin that makes the resurrection so compelling.

Oh how He loves us!

He satisfies the deepest cravings in each and every person who truly evaluates this life. This is what Easter is all about. We should want everyone to know about this reality found only in Jesus. This is what the NT calls “the gospel (the good news!).”

I pray that you and I will proclaim it clearly. I pray that you and I will speak it lovingly. I pray that you and I will live it out honestly and authentically amongst a world that wants to know not just what we say we believe, but how we live in light of those beliefs.

*Prayer: Lord, may we proclaim the gospel clearly not only in word, but in deed. Help me to show your love to this world this Easter season by living a life of sacrifice. Help me Lord to speak the truth of Jesus' life and death clearly and with passion so you might stir the hearts of people through my life. You are our only hope this Easter and we cling to you.*