

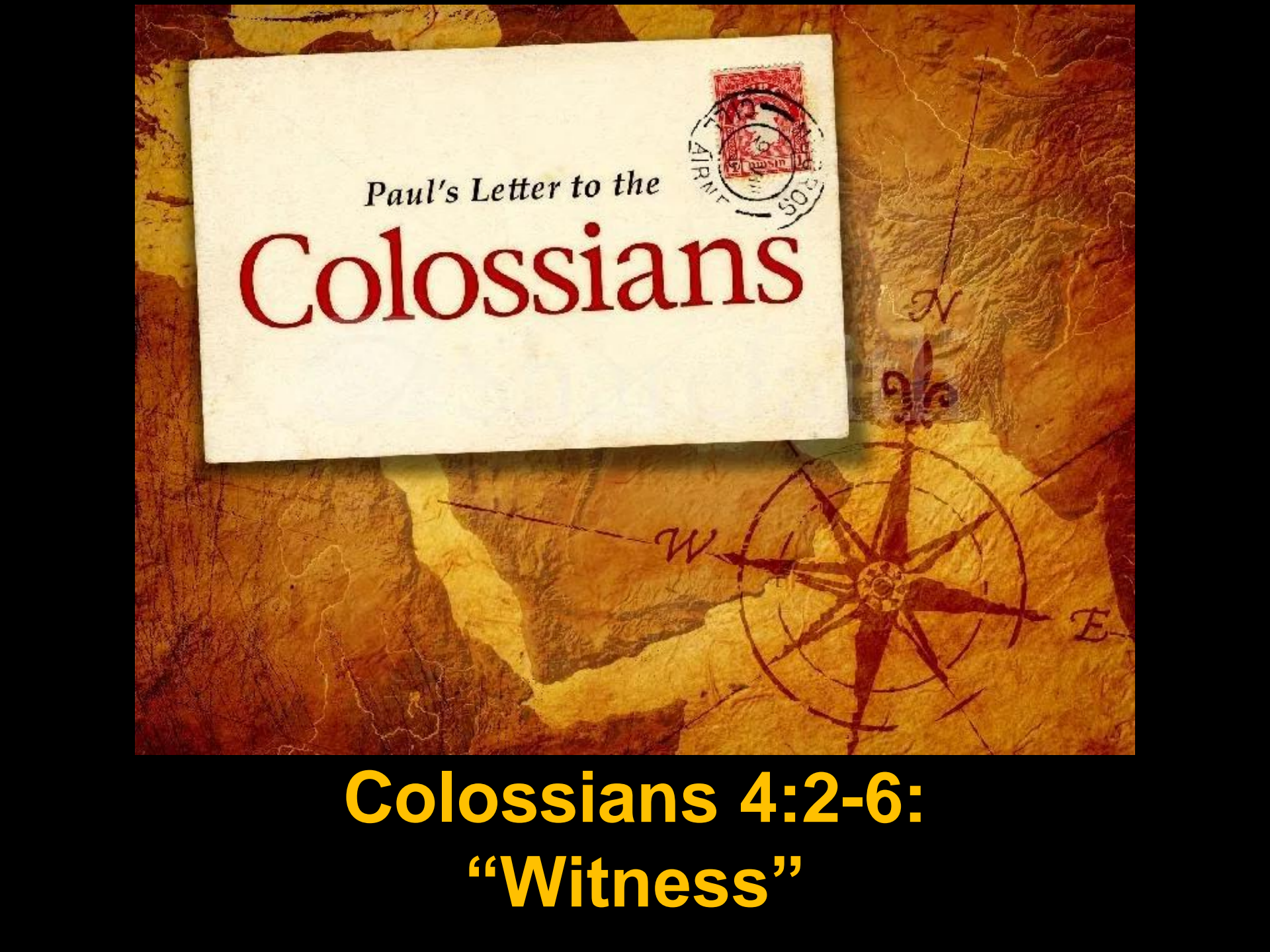
An aerial view of Prague, Czech Republic, during sunset. The Vltava River flows through the city, with the Charles Bridge in the foreground. The city is filled with historic buildings, including a prominent church with a green dome. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun.

WELCOME
to the
International Baptist Church
of Prague

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020



SERMON



Paul's Letter to the
Colossians

**Colossians 4:2-6:
“Witness”**

Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Matthew 26:41 (ESV)

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM (1563)

116. Question.

Why is prayer necessary for Christians?

Answer.

Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness which God requires of us.

Moreover, God will give his grace and the Holy Spirit only to those who constantly and with heartfelt longing ask him for these gifts and thank him for them.



If we think of the Holy Spirit only as an impersonal power or influence, then our thought will constantly be, how can I get hold of and use the Holy Spirit; but if we think of Him in the biblical way as a divine Person, infinitely wise, infinitely holy, infinitely tender, then our thought will constantly be, 'How can the Holy Spirit get hold of and use me?'

— *R. A. Torrey* —

AZ QUOTES

Colossians 4:3-4 (ESV)

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.

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 (ESV)

17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face,
18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. **19** For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

Colossians 4:3-4 (ESV)

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.

- ““for which I am in prison” – literally in the Greek it says, “for which I am bound”- “δέδεμαι.”
- “⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”
“how I ought to speak” – literally it is “for which I am bound to speak” The Greek word there for ought or must, “δεῖ” = often translated “it is necessary,” but it is from the same root as the verb “to be bound”. So, here in context it could be translated. “I am bound”



We must know the power of the Blood if we are to know the power of God. Our knowing experimentally the power of the Word, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the power of prayer is dependent upon our knowing the power of the Blood of Christ.

— *R. A. Torrey* —

Colossians 4:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

1 Peter 3:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

"Most High,
glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me true faith,
certain hope and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



HEIDELBERG CATECHISM (1563)

117. Question.

What belongs to a prayer which pleases God and is heard by him?

Answer.

First, we must from the heart call upon the one true God only, who has revealed himself in his Word, for all that he has commanded us to pray. Second, we must thoroughly know our need and misery, so that we may humble ourselves before God. Third, we must rest on this firm foundation that although we do not deserve it, God will certainly hear our prayer for the sake of Christ our Lord, as he has promised us in his Word.

To
God
be the Glory!