



**JESUS IS GREATER**

## **March 16 Sermon Study Guide**

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### **Jesus is Greater: *Because Jesus Is Greater***

*Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.<sup>3</sup> Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.<sup>4</sup> Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.<sup>5</sup> Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.<sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive<sup>[a]</sup> so that you will have the right response for everyone.*  
Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT)

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV) *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV) *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,*

#### COMMENTARY

iii. “In classical writers ‘salt’ expressed the wit with which conversation was flavoured.” (Peake)  
“Grace and salt (wit, sense) make an ideal combination.” (Robertson)

b. That you may know how you ought to answer each one: Paul believed that Christians would answer others from Biblical truth, and that they would work at knowing how to communicate those answers to those who are outside.

i. Barclay translates [Colossians 4:6](#) this way: Let your speech always be with gracious charm, seasoned with the salt of wit, so that you will know the right answer to give in every case. He explains: “Here is an interesting injunction. It is all too true that Christianity in the minds of many is connected with a kind of sanctimonious dullness and an outlook in which laughter is almost a heresy... The Christian must commend his message with the charm and the wit which were in Jesus himself.”

ii. “They must strive to cultivate the gift of pleasant and wise conversation, so that they may be able to speak appropriately to each individual (with his peculiar needs) with whom they come in contact.” (Peake)

iii. [Colossians 4:2-6](#) shows that God is concerned both about our personal prayer life and our interaction with the world. He cares both about the prayer closet and the public street, and He wants us to care about both also.

iv. This is also an important idea to connect with the earlier passages of Colossians. Paul spent considerable time in this letter explaining the truth and refuting bad doctrine. Yet all the correct knowledge was of little good until it was applied in both the prayer closet and the public street of daily life. We could say that here, Paul genuinely completes his letter.

### A Life Application Study Guide

***James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word.***

We are at the end of this series where we have heard each week that *Jesus is Greater* and that we should live as if He is.

> So, reach back to 8 weeks ago, how are you thinking of Jesus differently?

In the 4 chapters of the book of Colossians Paul makes the case that Jesus is indeed greater than you or I or anyone else for that matter. There is no one that can or will ever be equal to Jesus, the Son of God. In chapter 4 we see Paul’s closing statements.

He had countered the false and flawed teaching that is referred to as the Colossian heresy. Diligently he made his way through the various areas of life where the people in Colossae (possibly very much like us) were living as if something or someone was greater than Jesus.

### QUESTIONS to CONSIDER

In chapter 4 Paul talks about prayer as an ongoing behavior in the Christ Follower.

#### **Be Devoted**

>What comes to mind when you think of devotion to something or someone? To what or to whom are you devoted to regularly?

>Describe that action.

>What would a devoted prayer life look like? How might it alter your perspective and daily choices and even shift the trajectory of other’s lives?

#### **Live Wisely**

>Among whom are we called to live wisely and why does this matter?

>What word comes to mind when you think of the opposite of wisdom?

>How are you influencing others who do not know and follow Jesus? Do you see those people as potential friends or projects?

>If they became your friend how might your influence become more significant as they gain the opportunity to know you as a friend?

>Do you think of Jesus as a friend? If yes, how is He influencing you?

**Be Engaging**

>Who can you think of that you love to spend time with?

>What is it about that person that is engaging and attractive? How do you pray for them?

>Who loves to spend time with you and why?

> Wrapping up, how are you living as if Jesus is greater and making the most of every opportunity as you engage with others out in NOVA and beyond?