

SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS
JULY 17, 2022

1. Four of Paul's New Testament letters were written from prison; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Some might have thought being in prison would have ended the apostle's usefulness to the Kingdom, but it did not. In what ways was Paul able to minister even from jail? Can you think of any way being in prison would have been useful to Paul regarding ministry?
1. The apostle was above all a man of prayer. His prayer concerns were many and varied. What was Paul praying for in Eph.6:19-20, 2 Thess.3:2, 1 Thess.3:10, Eph.3:16-19?
2. Some major on doctrine, others on the practical details of everyday living. Paul was concerned with both. Why should doctrine and its application never be separated? What would the problem be with forgetting about doctrine or forgetting about the details of everyday living?
3. Read Eph.3:12. There is a condition laid down for us if we are to approach God in prayer with freedom and confidence. From this verse, what is this condition? State this condition in your own words.
4. In ancient Israel the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies once a year to deal with the sins of the people before God. Animals would be sacrificed and their blood sprinkled on the mercy seat and on the ground around the Ark of the Covenant. What did the animal sacrifices foreshadow? What do these activities say about how Israel believed God should be approached?
5. Read Matt.27:50-51. When Christ died on the cross the curtain of the Temple giving access to the Most Holy Place was torn in two from top to bottom. What is the significance of this event? See also Heb.10:19-20.
6. Have you ever felt like giving up in prayer for a concern that has been on your heart for some time? See Luke 18:1. Why did Jesus tell the story of the unjust judge in Luke 18? When you are tempted to give up in prayer what helps you to endure?
7. How important is it for us to be rested and not over-tired when it comes to prayer?
8. "We sometimes need to preach to ourselves when it comes to prayer." What do you think this means?
9. Share about a time in your life when God answered your prayers in a very clear way.
10. What do you think are the most common obstacles people have when it comes to spending time in prayer?