

## Prayer for Boldness

Ephesians 6:19–20

*"[Pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."*

As an apostle, Paul may have been tempted more than other Christians to believe he could go it alone, that just he and Jesus together were enough to get the job done. In one sense, this would have been true. Jesus is the friend "who sticks closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). Even if all others desert us, Christ never leaves us or forsakes us, sustaining us by His Spirit in the most difficult circumstances (Heb. 13:5–6). Yet in another sense, we do not face the world with only Jesus beside us. The circumstances in which absolutely everyone might abandon us are few and far between, and God has redeemed us in union with other believers (Eph. 2:11–22). For all the church's faults, we often do a good job of sticking together, supporting one another as we walk under the shadow of death in service to our King.

Having just finished an epistle on the nature of the church, Paul was well aware of this fact and humble enough to request prayer for himself while he was in prison. He asks for intercession in today's passage, specifically exhorting the Ephesians to pray for his boldness in proclaiming the "mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19–20). This gospel was the reason for his chains, and if, as is likely, Paul wrote Ephesians sometime during the imprisonment recorded in Acts 28:11–31, his specific requests are understandable. After all, the apostle to the Gentiles was about to go before the most powerful man on earth in his day — the caesar. Due to the intimidating pomp of the Roman court, it would have been tempting even for him to avoid speaking the truth boldly. Paul, never a foolish man, needed all the spiritual help he could get in fulfilling the call to preach to the emperor. He needed others praying with him that he might wear the armor of God (Eph. 6:10–20).

Finally, the apostle's reference to himself as an "ambassador in chains" indicates the radical difference between the kingdom of heaven and the kingdoms of this world. None of Paul's pagan contemporaries would have referred to themselves in this way, for to imprison an ambassador from another nation would have embarrassed the ambassador, the sender, and the country hosting the diplomat. But Christ, who humbled Himself for our sakes (Phil. 2:5–11), sends lowly ambassadors on His behalf — ambassadors who may have to suffer greatly to announce His reign.

Coram Deo

Just as in Colossians, Paul does not request in today's passage to be released from prison but for more ministry opportunities (Col. 4:3–4). This is a model for us. It is, of course, not wrong to ask the Lord to alleviate our suffering. Nevertheless, perhaps the first thing we pray for should not be the end of our pain, especially if it is for the sake of the gospel. Perhaps we should first pray for God to use our suffering for His glory.

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Ligonier Ministries



November 6, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## Hated Without a Cause

"IF THE WORLD  
HATES YOU,  
KNOW THAT  
IT HAS HATED  
ME BEFORE  
IT HATED YOU."

JESUS CHRIST

John 15:18

# Order of Service

## Announcements

## Welcome

## Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

## Call To Worship

## Hymn of Praise

"Lion and The Lamb" . . . . . Brown/Johnson/Mooring

## Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Nicene Creed\*

## Song of Praise

"You are God and You are Good". . . . . Ivey/Carter/Reeves

## Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal -----

**Scripture Warning:** 1 John 2:3-5

**Public Confession:** Prayer adapted from Isaiah 59:1-12

## Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** Isaiah 1:18

**Song of Renewal:** "Come to Me". . . . . Johnson/Hendrickson

-----God's Grace-----

**Scripture Reading:** John 15:18-25 (ESV)

## Prayer

## The Sermon

"Hated without a Cause"

## Song of Communion

"I Surrender All". . . . . VanDeVenter/Weeden

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

## Prayer of Approach

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

## Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

## Parting Hymn

"Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me"

. . . . . Robinson/Farren/Thompson

## Benediction

\*The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325) and was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and the person of Christ.

## The Real Cost of Being a Christian

"But it does cost something to be a real Christian, according to the standards of the Bible. There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried, a race to be run. Conversion is not putting a man in an arm-chair and taking him easily to heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict, in which it costs much to win the victory. Hence arises the unspeakable importance of "counting the cost." J.C. Ryle

## Conclusion

In Christ, our self-denial and sacrifice are transformed into joy as we pursue greater things than the fleeting pleasures of the world. We put the lavish love of God on display in word and deed and say, "Christ is better." We all stumble in our pursuit of this joy, but may God grant us the strength to pursue still.

<sup>1</sup>Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John* (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.; 1st ed., Vol. 2, p. 311). P&R Publishing.

<sup>2</sup>J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels: John*, 3 vols. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1999), 3:132.

<sup>3</sup>Carter, M., & Wredberg, J. (2017). *Exalting Jesus in John* (Jn 15:22-25). Holman Reference.

# Notes

## We Serve the One the World Hates

*John 15:20 (ESV)*

<sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

## We follow Jesus. Where did Jesus go? To the cross.

You can't follow a crucified Savior and not expect a cross. If our Master (who never sinned) died because of the world's hatred, logic alone tells us we should expect something similar, especially since we have sinned

## The World Is Estranged from God

*John 15:21 (ESV)*

<sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

**This is the great point that Jesus wants us to know:** the world hates his disciples because of *him* and therefore only because we bear *his* name. This is our single greatest privilege, and it ought to be our greatest joy: to bear Christ's name amid the world's hatred and persecution.

"Persecution, in short, is like the Goldsmith's hallmark on real silver and gold: it is one of the marks of a converted man."<sup>22</sup>

## No Plea of Ignorance

*John 15:22-25 (ESV)*

<sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

Jesus came to earth and did amazing things. He spoke like no man had ever spoken, and he did works no man had ever done. Yet the people hated him. <sup>3</sup> Far from the world's being in control in its hatred and persecution of Christ and his people, the world is instead merely fulfilling what was foreordained and prerecorded by God in the Bible.

## Upcoming Events

### Saturday, November 12 11:00 AM-3:00 PM Ladies Luncheon

Verna Bowman will be speaking on Overcoming the Storms of Life  
Held at Mt. Carmel UMC 2203 Harmonyville Rd. Elverson, Pa 190520

### Sunday, November 13 12:15-1:00 P.M. Sunday School Reorganization

Meeting in the Conference Room upstairs for current staff and anyone interested in being involved in our Sunday School as a teacher, assistant, care-giver, or prayer partner.

### Saturday, November 19 8:00 A.M. Men's Breakfast

At the home of Pastor Rick

### Sunday, November 20 4:00 P.M. Coventry-Warwick Community

**Thanksgiving Service** held at Calvary Christian Center  
426 Laurelwood Rd. Pottstown, PA 19465

### DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Howden

- Pray for their baby who should be arriving soon.
- Pray for the college students they are discipling.

### CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray as they being training and are being mentored for a marriage coaching program in November.

### Crossing Cultures International: David and Mindy Nelson

#### MYANMAR

Pray for comfort for one of the teachers in eastern Myanmar whose paralyzed father died due to not receiving the proper care as they hid in the forest from the military junta. May the Lord grant her the serenity to accept what cannot be changed and the courage to face the days ahead.

Pray for our eastern Myanmar Area Coordinator, suffering from seasonal sickness for a week now. He meets a doctor regularly. May the Lord restore him and raise him up to full health. Please pray that his family will not become ill.



### Pro-Life Prayer

#### THOSE HEALING FROM TRAUMA AND ABUSE

Some women experiencing crisis pregnancies are also dealing with a history of trauma and abuse. Women who are abortion-vulnerable may have a hard time believing they have value or could be loved, and trusting people may be difficult due to their prior experiences. Pray that God would break down the walls of guilt and shame that come with trauma and/or abuse. Ask Him to send people to love these women with His love, not just for a day or two, but for a lifetime. Pray that Christians would be able to better understand the effects of abuse and trauma on the body, mind, and spirit, and that we would love people better as a result.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . .November 6, 2022

- Pray for Dawn Fleetman’s father, Bill. His knees gave out and he was admitted to the Pottstown Hospital. Pray for wisdom to find out the cause.
- Pray for Karlene, a friend of a co-worker of Dawn. She has a terminal illness and is waiting to go home to be with the Lord.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins as she recovers from the effects of COVID.
- Pray for Rhonda Clark’s father, who has malignant bladder cancer. Cancer has spread to his muscles. Please pray for healing and strength for Rhonda and her family.
- Pray for Christine Wesoloski, friend of Donna Jenkins, who has stage 4 breast cancer. Pray for healing for Christine.
- Pray for Fred and Lisa, friends of Donna Jenkins. Pray for God’s healing strength for them and their family.
- Praise that Lorraine Blanski’s nephew, Jason, had his shunt revised on Wednesday, October 12th. This surgery relieved some of the pressure behind his eyes. His blurry vision is starting to clear. Jason still has short-term memory loss. Pray for continued healing.
- Pray for Tim Li, from Taiwan, as he attends Conestoga Christian School.
- Pray for Ashley Adams and her friend, Hannah, who have the opportunity to go on a short-term mission trip to the Texas/Mexican border from November 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. Pray for God’s strength for Ashley and Hannah as they build relationships, pray, and evangelize to these women and children.
- Pray for Macie and Cassie Frame, who are all settled in their apartment and working in California. Pray for their safety and that Cassie can find a church.
- Pray for Jill Aument, who needs to have an eye procedure done one time per month for three months, for bleeding and fluid behind her eye. Pray for continued healing for Jill following this procedure.
- Pray for Austin, the stepson of Lorraine Blanski’s niece. Austin is doing okay with school. Overall, he is doing well. Pray for continued healing and mental health and God’s strength for Austin.
- Pray for Terry Cecchetelli’s grandnephew, Liam, who is 1-year old and has a rare disease called PDHA-1. He will need a feeding tube. Pray for God’s wisdom for Liam’s doctors and strength and comfort for the families.
- Pray for Igor Parfeniounk, a North Coventry police officer with Matt Deichert. Pray for Igor’s sister and her family, as they are still living in Ukraine.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins’ nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for God’s healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker for healing from cancer.

## Message

### Hated without a Cause

*John 15:18–25*

#### Introduction

According to Jesus, there is a cost to following him that must be faced: his followers will be hated by the world. Just as Jesus was savagely opposed by the people of his time, despite his loving ministry and godly life, so also must those who follow him expect hostility and persecution from the world.<sup>1</sup>

The persecution of Christians has reached the highest levels since **the World Watch List** began nearly 30 years ago. “Across 76 countries, more than 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – an increase of 20 million since last year.” 312 million Christians live in the top 50 countries alone. One in every seven Christians live under at least high levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith.

### Hated by the World

*John 15:18 (ESV)*

<sup>18</sup> *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.*

The hatred of the world is a certainty. If you’re following Christ, this is a guarantee. If Jesus was hated, so will his followers be.

### Jesus Has Called Us Out of the World

*John 15:19 (ESV)*

<sup>19</sup> *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

Christ chose the disciples for a specific work in this world. Therefore, although the world rejects Christ’s salvation and despises his work, it also hates those who have been chosen by him for it.