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**DEVOTED**  
 - Colossians 4:2-6 -

## R U Devoted?

*Justin Worden – Tupos SM  
 Wednesday Night Live – August 3, 2011*

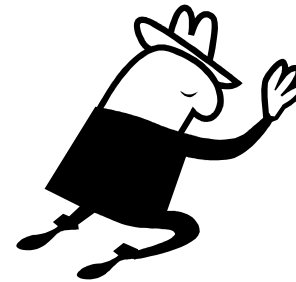
*Video = "Devoted: Disciple" (Student Life Videos, 1:08)*

**Colossians 3:1-2** = "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. 3 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. 4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. 5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone." (NLT)

### I. Devoted To Praying (v.2)

#### a. The Three Elements of Prayer

- i. Check out how packed this verse is! (Colossians 4:2 = "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart")
- ii. Devote (ourselves to prayer)
  1. Devote = "offer, assign, give, a lot"
  2. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)
  3. "Devoting ourselves to prayer means making time for listening to the Father as well as for talking to Him." (C Stanley)
  4. So... how would you assess your prayer life right now? (Check out this scale)
- iii. Stay alert (in prayer)
  1. Ephesians 6:18 = "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." (NLT)



2. Remember we have this enemy who wants to distract us in prayer! (Whether you are praying in your car and someone calls or you are praying in church and you get a text or you are praying in bed and you fall asleep... stay alert!)
3. God wants your mind's attention and your heart's affection. The enemy wants your mind to be drifting and your heart to remain troubled!
- iv. Give thanks (with a spirit of thanksgiving)
  1. How thankful are you to God? (Well, how much do you show it?)
  2. "Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father" (Col. 3:16-17, NLT).
  3. How would our worship, our lifestyle, and our prayer life look different if we acted seriously thankful to God? Seriously!

### II. Devoted To Proclaiming (vv.3-4)

#### a. Being Devoted Presents Opportunities

- i. If you will devote yourself to more Jesus (in each day), you will find places to serve Him and opportunities to be a part of His work around you.
- ii. Paul prayed for opportunities... do you?
- iii. Even opportunities as simple as "to speak about... Christ" (v.3). Never miss those God appointments.

#### b. Being Devoted Includes Being Locked Up

- i. Jesus never promised that living for Him would be easy, but He did promise that He would always be with us as we live for Him.
- ii. The "chains" (v.3) will come... "Chains" = "hardships, difficulties, troubles, problems"
- iii. But when you see it through and bust out of those chains, what a greater testimony you will have to share about.
- iv. Expect the chains, wait for the freedom.

#### c. Being Devoted Still Preaches On

- i. No matter how Paul was locked up... He would not shut up! ("No Chains On Me" by Chris Tomlin)
- ii. Even if it is hard to live for Christ and you feel shut down... preach on, like you know you should!



1. Not a preacher?
2. Preach = "speak, talk, urge, advocate"
3. We are all "speakers" for Jesus! Preach on!

### III. Devoted To Proper Living (vv.5-6)

#### a. It's About Living Wisely

- i. V.5 = "Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity."
- ii. The what? = live wisely! (Wise = "not foolish")
- iii. The how? = make the most of every opportunity!

#### b. It's About In All Your Life

- i. 5 great parts to living wisely: 1 Timothy 4:12
  1. "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." (NLT) **TUPOS!!!!**

### IV. R U Devoted?

#### a. Devotion Is Living In Christ Completely

"A little boy was spending his Saturday morning playing in his sandbox. He had with him his box of cars and trucks, his plastic pail, and a shiny, red plastic shovel.

In the process of creating roads and tunnels in the soft sand, he discovered a large rock in the middle of the sandbox. The lad dug around the rock, managing to dislodge it from the dirt. With no little bit of struggle, he pushed and nudged the rock across the sandbox by using his feet. (He was a very small boy and the rock was very large.) When the boy got the rock to the edge of the sandbox, however, he found that he couldn't roll it up and over the little wall.

Determined, the little boy shoved, pushed, and pried, but every time he thought he had made some progress, the rock tipped and then fell back into the sandbox. The little boy grunted, struggled, pushed, shoved—but his only reward was to have the rock roll back, smashing his chubby fingers. Finally he burst into tears of frustration.

All this time the boy's father watched from the living room window as the drama unfolded. At the moment the tears fell, a large shadow fell across the boy and the sandbox. It was the boy's father. Gently but firmly he said, 'Son, why didn't you use all the strength that you had available?'

Defeated, the boy sobbed back, 'But I did, Daddy, I did! I used all the strength that I had!'

'No, son,' corrected the father kindly. 'You didn't use all the strength you had. You didn't ask me.' With that the father reached down, picked up the rock, and removed it from the sandbox.

Do you have "rocks" in your life that need to be removed? Are you discovering that you don't have what it takes to lift them? God is always available to us and willing to give us the strength we need to overcome

obstacles and to accomplish great things for him. 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble' (Psalm 46:1)" [Hot Illustrations 1.0, The Big Rock]

Let me end with maybe where your life began this summer, at camp (a couple weeks ago) where we learned about being "Devoted" = Deuteronomy 6:5

- b. "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." (NLT)
- c. "Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!" (Msg)

***So... R U Devoted? Let's start praying like it, proclaiming like it, and properly living like it! DEVOTED!***

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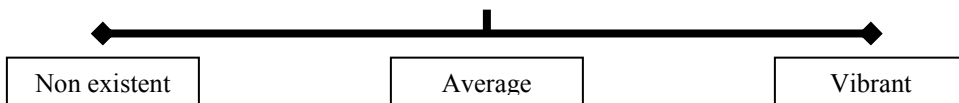
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**I. Devoted To \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2)**

**a. The Three Elements of \_\_\_\_\_**

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. Devote = " \_\_\_\_\_ "
- 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 3. My Prayer Life Scale:



*Mark on the line where you think your prayer life is currently at.*

- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 6:18)
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ (Colossians 3:16-17)

**II. Devoted To \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.3-4)**

- a. Being Devoted Presents \_\_\_\_\_**
  - i. Never miss those God appointments!
- b. Being Devoted Includes Being \_\_\_\_\_**
  - i. Chains = " \_\_\_\_\_ "
- c. Being Devoted Still \_\_\_\_\_**
  - ii. We are all "speakers" for Jesus! So... Preach on!

**III. Devoted To \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.5-6)**

- a. It's About \_\_\_\_\_ Wisely**
    - "Wisely" = " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - b. It's About In \_\_\_\_\_ Your \_\_\_\_\_**
    - 5 great parts to living wisely: 1 Timothy 4:12!
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_

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