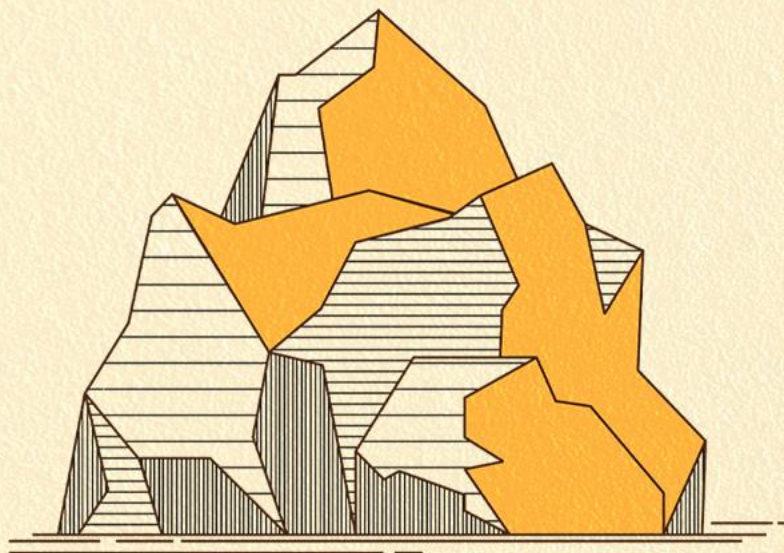
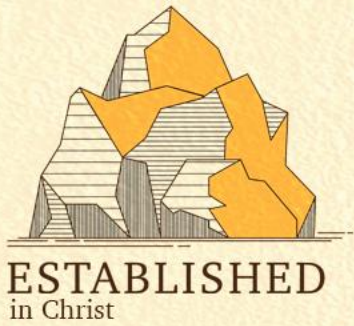




ESTABLISHED
in Christ

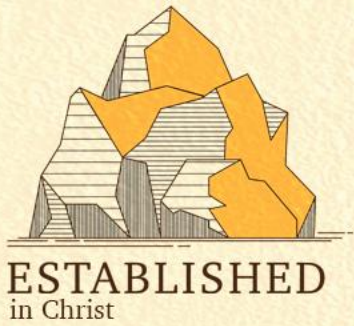
A Call to Pray

Colossians 4:2-18



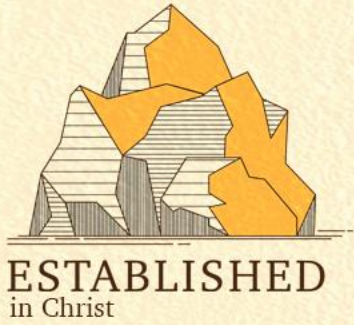
Colossians 4:2-4 (page 985)

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 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—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.



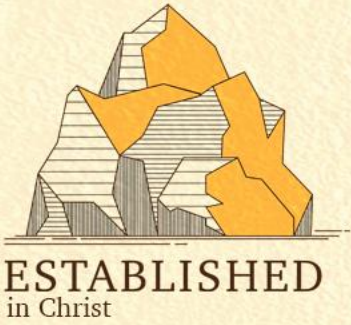
Ephesians 6:18-20

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and 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.



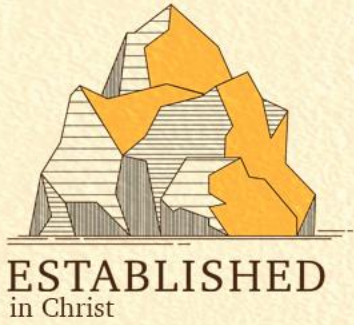
Characteristics of Our Prayers

1. **STEADFAST:** Our prayers should be habitual, regular, and undeterred.



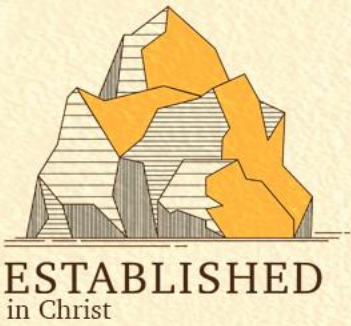
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



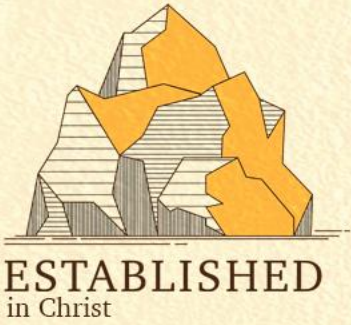
Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.



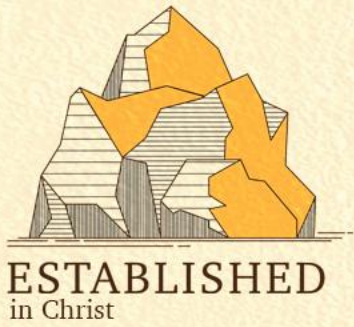
Psalm 139:1-6

O Lord, **you have searched** me and known me! **You know** when I sit down and when I rise up; **you discern** my thoughts from afar. **You search out** my path and my lying down and are **acquainted with** all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, **you know** it altogether. **You hem me in**, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.



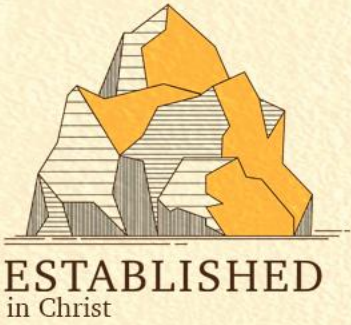
Characteristics of Our Prayers

1. **STEADFAST:** Our prayers should be habitual, regular, and undeterred.
2. **WATCHFUL:** To be awake and alert.



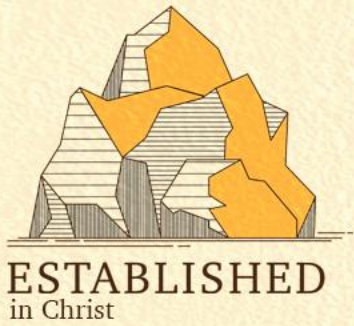
Mark 8:24

And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.”



Characteristics of Our Prayers

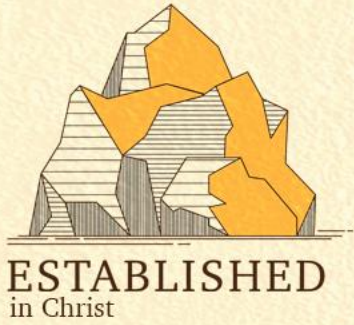
1. **STEADFAST:** Our prayers should be habitual, regular, and undeterred.
2. **WATCHFUL:** To be awake and alert.
3. **THANKFUL**



“How far less [are] the greatest afflictions that we meet with in this world, than we have deserved. The greatest outward troubles and calamities that we meet with... appear very little things [compared] to the misery which we have deserved.

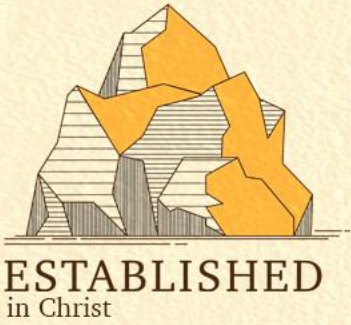
A man may meet with very great losses, his cattle may die, his corn may be blasted, his barn may be burnt down and all the goods consumed, and he may be brought from a comfortable living to a poor, low, stricken state.

This is very hard to bear, but alas, how little reason have such to complain if they do but consider how little this is, compared with that eternal destruction that we have been informed of.” - Jonathan Edwards



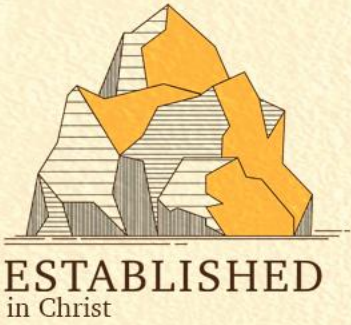
Psalm 50:14-15

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.



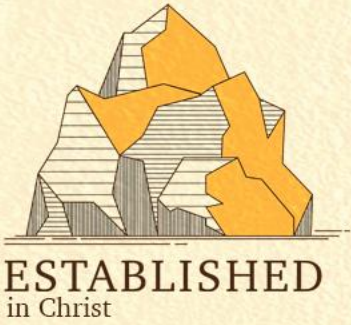
Psalm 50:14-15

1. You thank God, even when you don't feel like it.
2. You perform your vows. (*i.e.* let your actions match your words.)
3. You call on God when you need him.
4. God delivers you.
5. You glorify God for his help.



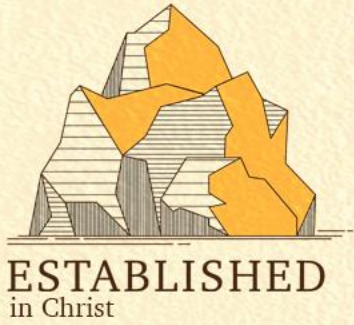
Colossians 4:3-4

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—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.



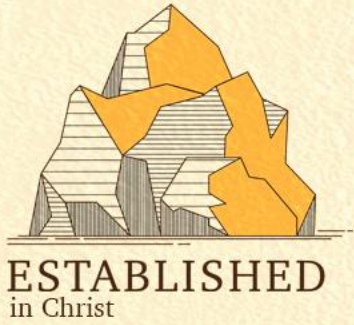
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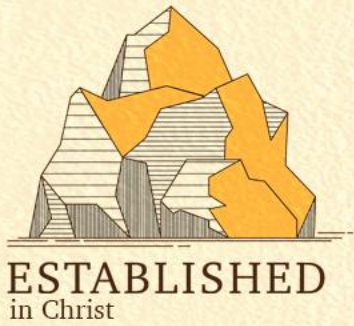
1 Corinthians 16:8-9

But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.



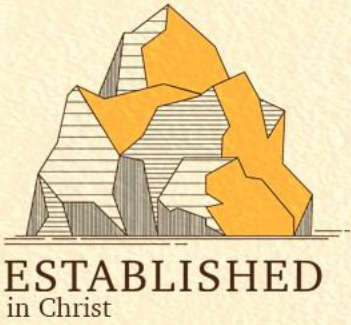
Revelation 3:8

I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut.



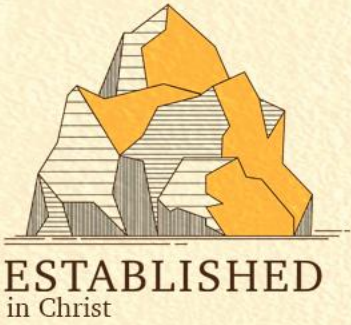
C.S. Lewis
(1898-1963)

“There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God, and counter-claimed by Satan.”



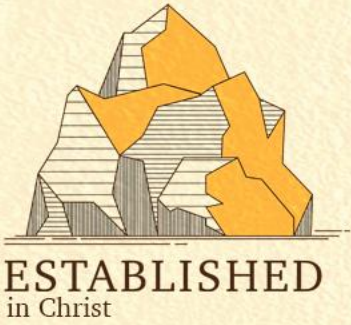
Colossians 4:5-6

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



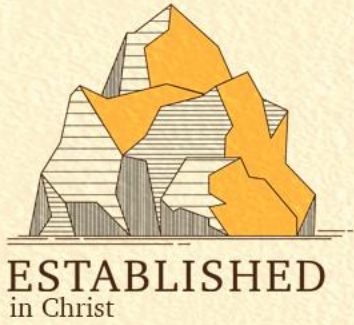
Matthew 10:16

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be
wise as serpents and innocent as doves.



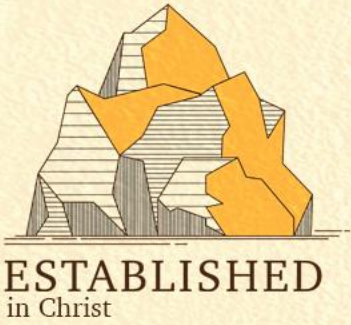
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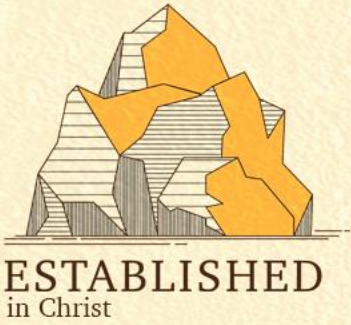
Ephesians 5:15-16

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.



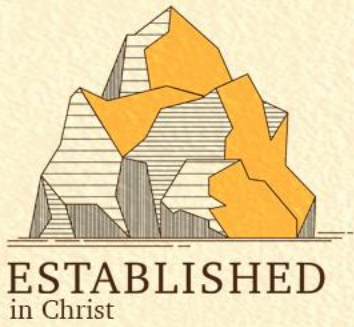
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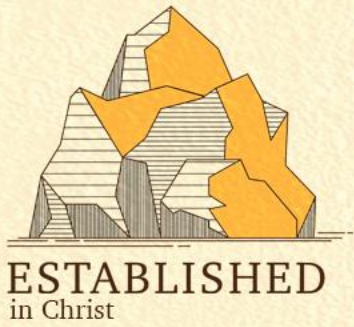
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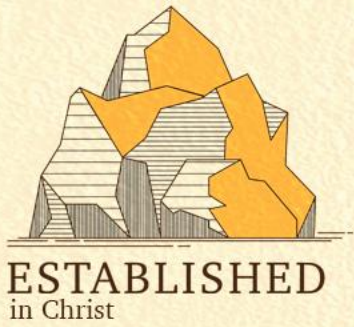
Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk (or unwholesome word) come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.



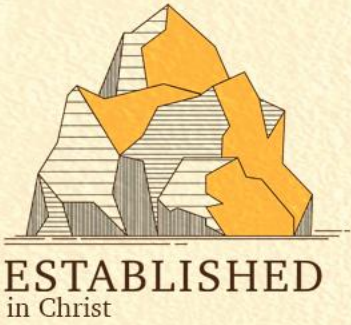
Max Lucado

"Before you speak, ask yourself: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? If it doesn't meet these criteria, let grace keep your mouth closed."



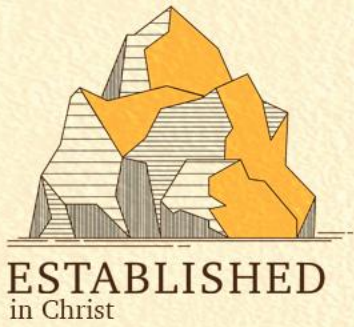
Our Speech Should Be:

- Engaging
- Interesting
- Pleasant
- Winsome
- Honest
- Wholesome
- Positive
- Humble
- Sensitive
- Prudent
- Affirming
- Appreciative
- With appropriate humor
- Open and unashamed about our faith, without being preachy



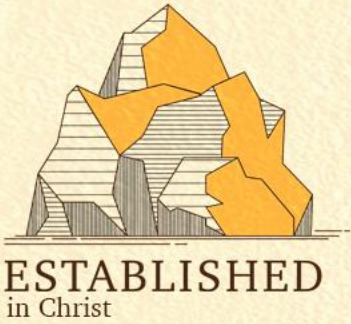
Proverbs 18:10

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.



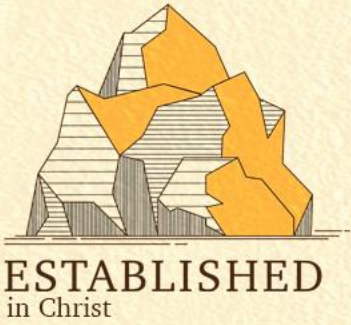
A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

"A right heart will always produce right speech. If our hearts are filled with the grace of God, our tongues will speak words of kindness and healing."



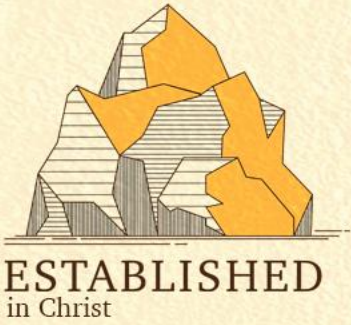
Colossians 4:7-18

Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him **Onesimus**, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.



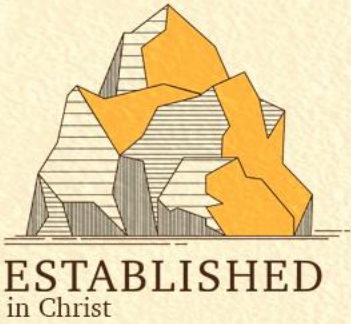
Colossians 4:7-18

Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and **Mark** the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called **Justus**. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.



Colossians 4:7-18

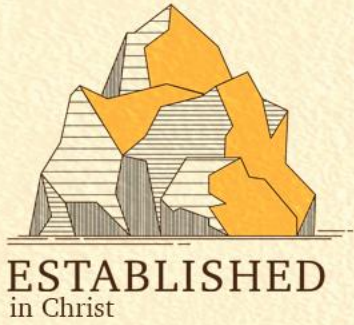
Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. **Luke** the beloved physician greets you, as does **Demas**.



Colossians 4:7-18

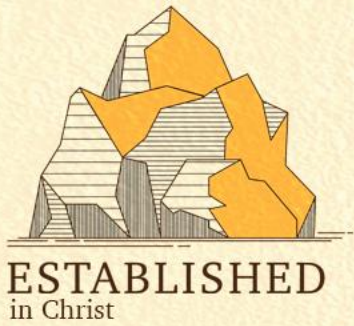
Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to **Nympha** and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. And say to **Archippus**, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.



Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.



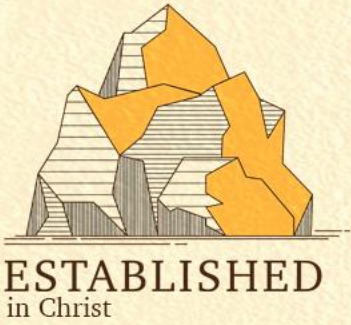
Samuel Chadwick

(1860-1932)

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying.

He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion.

He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, **but trembles when we pray.**”



Revelation 5:8

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.