

**Friday: 01/11/2018**

**The 'Packaging' of Our Life**

*"He is the image of the invisible God..." Colossians 1:15 NRSV*

*"Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ..." Romans 13:14 NIV*

In the past two weeks you've been invited to look at apologetics in a new way, and maybe even view God in a new way. That's because gentleness is a key trait of God. As we wrestle with the manner in which we ought to give an answer for the hope we have in Christ, may this prayer exercise help you with some introspection:

Find a package of food nearby — a box of crackers, a bottle of soda, anything — and hold it in your hands, examining the packaging. What does the design of the package tell you about the contents of it? The colours, shapes, wording and images are all very intentionally planned to inform you of the qualities of the food, and the feelings you'll hopefully have when you experience it!

Jesus is the ingredient list of God, and the packaging of God in human form. That's to say, He makes Him known, he makes him visible.

Holding the package in your hand consider: does the "packaging" of my life properly communicate the contents of my life? What do I say about Christ through the outer display of my life?

**Stop and reflect; when you're ready, pray:**

Lord, I'm not sure that the packaging of my life really tells people about who you really are. Maybe this shows that I'm not even really sure who you are. I'm open to having you redesign my packaging, rebrand the marketing campaign. Help me notice where you are speaking, moving, working. I want to be available for your service, at home, at work, and even for myself.

Staying still, listen for new thoughts or ideas that God would place in you.

**Devotional by: Vivianne David**

*P.S. Vivianne and I came to know each other through the Renovaré Institute. Her ministry with Youth For Christ over the past decade has inspired her to develop prayer exercises that engage the senses in "interactive prayer." I'm pleased to be able to pass on such an exercise every second Friday, trusting that you'll find yourself interacting with Dallas' ideas in deeper ways.*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, *The Allure of Gentleness*, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*