

Scriptures for Today: Colossians 4:2-6 – a life that is lived for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Today's Message:

"The Gospel Life"**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we looked beyond the home to the workplace and learned how we are to work and serve. We have a new Master (Jesus Christ) and a new motive – we serve the Lord Christ (we work for Him). Today, as we near completion of Colossians, we have arrived at Paul's closing exhortations which are not random commands, but a portrait of the Gospel life lived out. Christian maturity is seen in how we pray, how we walk, and how we speak. The Gospel life is both inwardly dependent on God and outwardly visible to our families and the world. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER**❖ The Text Colossians 4:2-6****A. Pray Faithfully – the Gospel life begins with a total dependence on God.**

1. A faithful Christian life set apart for the Gospel must **BEGIN** with God in prayer.

- **Colossians 4:2** – *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*
- **Colossians 4:3** – *Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us A DOOR OF UTTERANCE, TO SPEAK the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:*
- **Colossians 4:4** – *That I may make it manifest, as I ought TO SPEAK.*

Important
Paul was in prison for preaching the gospel!

1 Samuel 12:23

... God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you...

2 Corinth 2:12

... a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

Ephesians 6:20

... that therein I may speak boldly as I ought to speak.

"Continue in prayer" Persistent, ongoing reliance on God; not an occasional rescue prayer
"Watch... thanksgiving" Spiritually alert, aware... gratitude, remember past, trust for future
"Praying also for us" No Christian is self-sufficient; Apostle to Gentiles; we all need help!
"A door of utterance" Opportunity only God can provide; to hear gospel; to speak for Christ
"Make it manifest, as I ought to speak" The gospel must be made clear; it must be spoken!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Ephesians 6:18-20** – PRAYING always with all prayer and supplication... and watching
- **Philippians 4:6** – Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by PRAYER...your requests...
- **1 Corinth 16:9** – For a great door and effectual is opened unto me... many adversaries.

Key Truth

- Our public witness for Jesus Christ flows from our private dependence on God.
- Before we walk wisely and speak graciously, we must pray **FAITHFULLY**.

Paul was acknowledging a divine obligation, a moral responsibility, and a God-given stewardship to preach the Gospel. Prayer aligns believers with God's mission.
 The Gospel Life does not begin in public – it begins in prayer.

B. Walk Wisely – the Gospel life is about visible Christianity before the world.

2. A faithful Christian life set apart for the Gospel must LIVE intentionally for Christ!

- **Colossians 4:5** – *Walk in wisdom TOWARD them that are without, REDEEMING THE TIME.*

“Walk” The conduct of your life; steady pace (not sprint/stopped); not an event, a lifestyle
“In Wisdom” Skillful living that applies God’s truth to real situations of life; living knowledge
“Toward them that are without” Our audience of unbelievers; the world is watching you!
“Redeeming the time” The urgency of life; seize the opportunity; **Eph 5:16; Psalm 90:12**

Comparing Scriptures

- **1 Corinth 5:12-13** – ... *them also that are without... But them that are without God...*
- **1 Thess 4:12** – *That ye may WALK HONESTLY toward them that are without...*
- **1 Timothy 3:7** – ... *must have A GOOD REPORT of them which are without...*
- **Ephesians 5:15-16** – ...*walk circumspectly, NOT AS FOOLS... Redeeming the time...*

Key Truths

- The Gospel is most often evaluated over time, not moments of time.
- Every day counts. Time is LIMITED and precious. Opportunities are perishable.

C. Speak Graciously – the Gospel life should invite conversation and questions.

3. A faithful Christian life set apart for the Gospel must SPEAK with Christ’s voice!

- **Colossians 4:6** – *Let your speech be ALWAYS with grace, SEASONED WITH SALT, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

“Let your speech” The scope of your words; not just preaching, but everyday talk
“Be alway with grace” the tone of your speech; reflects Christ’s heart; edifies others
“Seasoned with salt” the substance of your speech; preserves, flavors, and cleanses
“That ye may know” the preparedness of your speech; assumes intentional readiness!
“How ye ought to answer every man” the wisdom of your speech; **HOW**, not **just** what!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Ephesians 4:29** – *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...*
- **Ephesians 4:32** – *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving...*
- **Matthew 5:13** – *Ye are THE SALT OF THE EARTH: but if the salt have lost his savour...*
- **Matthew 12:34** – ...*vipers... out of the abundance of the heart THE MOUTH speaketh.*

Key Truths

- Jesus was gentle with Nicodemus, direct with Pharisees, silent before Herod.
- Spiritual preparation precedes effective Gospel conversation. Keep GROWING!

Wisdom knows when to speak, how much to say, and when to stop.

The Gospel is for everyone, but our approach must be personal.

Salt added at the wrong time or in wrong quantity ruins the dish: use discernment!

Important Note

This is not mere intelligence or smooth talking, but discernment, spiritual insight, biblical judgment.

Expired Coupons

Opportunities to speak and care for souls have expiration dates.

Luke 4:22

And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph’s son?

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be **READY ALWAYS to give an answer to every man** that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

The Thermostat

A thermometer reacts to the room.
 A thermostat changes the room.