

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 4:1-6

- Just as he has instructing us in the **truths about Jesus** in **Ch 1**, and the **truth about error-falsehoods** that were spreading within the church in **Ch 2**, Paul is finishing up his letter to the Colossian church by reminding us of **the truth of walking with Jesus** and **being a Christian** here in **Ch's 3-4**.

V1-6

- **V1** Paul finishes his teaching on the employer- employee relationship by reminding us all that whether were bosses or workers God expects fairness and honesty to govern their actions. Remember he told the workers to not pretend to work only when the boss is watching, but that we have a boss in heaven Who is always watching therefore ultimately, we work for Him and His glory. Likewise, bosses are expected to behave **justly- fairly**, to not speak harshly or threatening to them, or be cheap, but to pay their workers well for the work they've done, and not attempt to find a loop-hole to stiff someone knowing that one day you will answer to the Lord > **Eph 6:9**.
- **V2-3** whatever position you find yourself in whether at the job, in the home, doing ministry, or providing charity, two things should be prevalent if it's going to be done well and that's **1st - Prayer, 2nd – Thanksgiving**, without these two things whatever you are doing eventually is going to turn into a burden instead of a blessing. Which is why he says two important things about **Prayer** and **Thanksgiving** > **1st continue earnestly-** means to be courageously persistent, **2nd be Vigilant-** to stay awake, these two things were absolutely essential to walking with Jesus and properly representing Christianity, and the example for this is found in > **Matt 26:37-45**
- Jesus takes with Him Peter, James and John, the inner circle of the disciples during the most stressful time of His public ministry as He is about to go to the cross, and He asks them to do a simple thing > **watch** and **pray**. Stay alert-pray, three times He leaves them and each time He returns they are not praying nor are they alert but fast asleep. They were neither **vigilant-** as they couldn't stay awake, or **persistent in prayer**, therefore they'll be clueless to what is about to transpire, as Peter resorts to violence thinking he was protecting Jesus, how often have we done the wrong thing, for the right reason, only to learn you should have avoided it all together.
- But when I'm **vigilant in prayer** then I also am **alert to answers of prayer**, I'm now able to see the open doors for ministry, and I'm thankful for the opportunities and the knowledge that God's listening, for then I don't have to manufacture anything which is both tiresome and exhausting. He makes a play on words that both describe his desire to be used for the Lord and his current situation in the world, for he says he is a prisoner of Jesus, called to reveal the mysteries of Who He is, and yet he's currently a prisoner of Rome, and yet free to do God's will.

- **V4-6** shows how both our lives and our speech need to back each other up, so unlike the world's slogan of "**talk is cheap**" scripture says "**talk is not cheap**" unless it's substantiated by actions. **V4** tells us that we pray and spend time with the Lord so that we will be alert to the open doors that He gives us to make known the truths of His glorious eternal plan. He wanted to "**make manifest**" to bring clarity to the gospel, and to do that Paul knew he needed to use his words.
- This is why knowing scripture is so important as it teaches us how to act but also what to say to a lost and dying world. **V5-6** I am to be careful in how I represent the Lord to the unsaved, so my life isn't primarily lived in the prayer closet but practically and wisely out in the open for all to see not to bring any special attention to myself for some superficial praise. It's to shine the light from the gospel into the hearts of a lost depraved world who desperately need the salvation of the Lord, and if we are to be believed then both our lives and our words must match up!
- **V5** says time is running out > **Eph 5:15-16** says the same thing, here's a man who doesn't know if he's going to be released back into society or have his head separated from his body, yet he knows he is on borrowed time whether he's released or martyred for the faith. So, he urges everyone don't seek to win an argument, over winning and encouraging a soul, but season your speech, seasoning and salt does three things > **1.** it tenderizes, **2.** it preserves, **3.** It makes it tasty.
- The gospel itself is confrontational, offensive, it angers and upsets people, so why should my words, attitude, approach be confrontational-offensive, I don't need to look for a spiritual fight, I shouldn't be huffing- puffing at anyone, I don't need to protect the gospel its fully capable of taking care of itself, so if you want to help someone truly come to Jesus live in a way that honors the Lord and when called upon speak words that are flavored with grace, mercy, and truth.