

*Entrusted*  
Colossians 4.2-6  
January 5, 2023

I hope you're being challenged as you consider how well you've been handling those things God has entrusted to you. It's my intention to keep the questions trimmed down to one page, but as always, proceed at your own pace through them. It's still true, you don't have to answer each and every question!

Pastor Eric

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*Sharing:* Do you have a *bucket list*? If so, what are a couple of things on your list?

Once again, we're going to tackle the very personal and challenging question, "How is God being honored by what he's entrusted to me?" This week we're taking our lead from **Colossians 4.2-6**. Read the text. What are your initial impressions? Are there any controlling ideas that weave through these verses?

Reflect on the following verses. How do they make you feel about the nature of time?

"You made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.  
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath."  
Psalm 39.5

"What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."  
James 4.14

The New Testament writers also reflect on the importance of time and its fleeting nature. Look up Ephesians 5.15-16 and Romans 13.11. What is Paul's point in bringing up the fact that time is rapidly passing by?

Reread Colossians 4.5. If you asked your non-Christian friends what it looks like to be "making the best use of the time," what do you think they would say? What is Paul saying about to believers about that?

As we noticed, there are two imperatives (urgent instructions) in these verses. The first is to "continue steadfastly in prayer." How do you define prayer? What does Paul say should characterize prayer? Ask yourself honestly (you don't need to share), "What place does prayer fit into the priorities of my life?" Does it seem counterintuitive to devote time to prayer when time is so quickly advancing? In verses 3 and 4, Paul notes two clear outcomes from prayer. What are they? Imagine that your prayers really do have a positive effect on the kingdom of God. What does that say to you about taking the time that has been entrusted to you and devoting it to prayer?

The second imperative is in verse 5, "walk in wisdom." Who are the outsiders Paul refers to here? As prayer has an effect on the kingdom, so does the way we live. How might that be true? Alongside of walking in wisdom, what does verse 6 say we must do? If "seasoned with salt" basically means to carry on inviting and grace-filled conversations, what are we being called to do with our time? Are your conversations marked by this sort of grace?

If you had 30 days left, what might be the best way(s) to spend your *time*?