

## Colossians 4:2-6

Pastor Karl Payne, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Last week Jonathan...Ex.21:16

This week: Col. 4:2-6

**Prayer: Col.4:1-4**

### Personal Charge

**4:2** *Devote, Continue, Persevere, imperative/command: Luke 11:2; Phil.4:6; Matt 7:7; James 4:2-3.*

*Keeping Alert: 1 Cor.16:13; Gal.6:10; Eph.6:18; 1 Thess.5:17; 1 John 2:15-17; Gal.5:16-17; 1 Pet.5:8.*

*Thankful attitude: Col.1:3; 1:12; 2:7; 3:15; 3:17; 4:2*—Remember, Paul is writing from a jail.

### Corporate Charge

**4:3-4** *For us*—Even an Apostle asked for and appreciated prayer. Compare **Eph.6:18-20**.

*That God will open up to us a door for the word*—Focus of the proclamation was the truth of the Word through the doors that God opens.

*That we may speak forth the mystery of Christ*—Subject of proclamation was Christ and salvation opened to the Gentiles, not a message manipulated to not offend the hearer. **Rom. 1:16; 3:22-26**

*For which I have also been imprisoned; obliged regardless of circumstances: Rom.1:14-15.*  
If faithful service to Jesus Christ guarantees H/W/P then Paul must have been a faithless fraud.

*That I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak:* proclamation should be clear and bold. Paul was a brilliant scholar who could speak to Jewish Pharisees, **Acts 23:1**, Greek pagans, **Acts 14:8**, Greek philosophers, **Acts 17:18**, Greek poets, **Acts 17:28** and Roman pragmatists, **Acts 24:10**. But his goal remained the same, to preach and teach the Word of God in clarity with boldness. People who consistently disparage education usually do so out of insecurity or ignorance. People who consistently promote the accumulation of information as a litmus test for value and proof of wisdom typically do so out of insecurity or ignorance. Both fall short of biblical wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

**Conduct: Col.4:5**

*Live your life, conduct, yourselves with wisdom; Sophia is God's wisdom not man's wisdom. Outsiders are those who have not responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation.*

*Making the most of the opportunity is buying up chances to live life in a way that reflects well of Jesus Christ, His gospel and His people rather than provide excuses for those outside to reject all three. Does my testimony for Christ lead people towards Him or drive them away from Him?  
Chip\*\*\**

**Speech: Col.4:6**

*A Christian's speech is supposed to be gracious rather than crass, and seasoned as salt, witty, distinct and functioning as a preservative, rather than salty, crude or coarse. **Eph.4:29.**  
God actually does care about our language; crude, edgy language does not honor God, even if many Christians are taught today that God does not care. Recent dialogue\*\*\**

*We have been commanded to willing, able and ready to provide reasons for the hope we profess to possess when people ask or challenge us. **1 Pet.3:15; Jude 3***

*A Christian's kindness should never be confused with cowardliness or ignorance. Speaking truth out of obedience must never be subjugated to a compromised testimony motivated by a love for acceptance and popularity or fear of hurting feelings or rejection. **Eph.4:15***