

“TIME IS TICKING AWAY”

Colossians 4:2-6 – Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

1. Commit to living **prayerfully**.

- **Ephesians 1:16-18** – I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

2. Commit to walking **wisely**.

- **1 Peter 5:8** – Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.
- **Ephesians 5:15-17** – So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.
- **Psalms 90:12** – Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

3. Commit to speaking **graciously**.

- **Proverbs 16:24** (ESV) – Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
- **Proverbs 15:23** – Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!
- **Proverbs 12:18** – Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.