

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 17)

TEXT: Col. 4:2-6

INTRO: At the end of chapter three and the beginning of chapter four the Apostle Paul has been instructing believers on how to have healthy relationships because we are in Christ. He now turns his attention to the subject of prayer and evangelism. Concerning prayer the late Adrian Rogers stated “Your spiritual life will never rise above your prayer life.”

I. (vs. 2-4) How to pray.

A. “Continue in prayer”

NOTE: The word *continue* means to persevere or habitually pray. The NKJV translates “Continue earnestly in prayer”. “Delays are not denials. If you want God to answer your prayer, you have to learn to wait on the Lord.” *Adrian Rogers*

B. “and watch in the same with thanksgiving”

1. Be vigilant, alert and awake to what’s going on around us.

NOTE: Peter used this word in I Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” “Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.” (Neh. 4:9)

2. Our prayers should be laced with thanksgiving.

NOTE: Specific prayers allow us to see specific answers. Someone once said “the purpose for prayer is not to get man’s will done in heaven, but to get God’s will done on earth.”

C. “Withal praying also for us”

1. “that God would open unto us a door of utterance”

NOTE: There are three great examples recorded in the N.T. Acts 14:27; I Cor. 16:9 and 2 Cor. 2:12

2. “to speak the mystery of Christ”

NOTE: The mystery involved the Gentiles getting saved and being on equal footing with the Jews who got saved in the church. Col. 1:25-27 The power is in God’s Word. Col. 1:3-6

3. “for which I am also in bonds:”

NOTE: “Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.” (2 Tim. 2:9)

4. “That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

NOTE: Paul’s desire was to present the Gospel clearly.

II. (vs. 5) How to walk.

A. “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without”

NOTE: The word *walk* refers to our everyday conduct in life.

1. Wisdom is essential. Conduct gives credibility to our witness.

NOTE: Col. 1:9-11 Sheldon Vanauken wrote: “The best argument for Christianity is Christians: their joy, their certainty, their completeness. But the strongest argument

against Christianity is also Christians—when they are somber and joyless, when they are narrow and repressive, then Christianity dies a thousand deaths.” See I Pet. 2:11-12

(Lesson 17b)

2. Those who are without refers to those outside of the kingdom.

B. “redeeming the time.”

1. We must take advantage of the opportunities God gives us!

NOTE: Gal. 6:9-10 God gives each of us 1440 minutes a day that has to be used or squandered.

III. (vs. 6) How to talk.

A. “Let your speech be alway with grace”

1. Grace refers to “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech, good will, loving-kindness, favour”.

B. “seasoned with salt”

1. Salt is both a preservative, a flavoring and it makes you thirsty.

NOTE: Max Lucado wrote: “You have the power to change someone’s life simply by the words that you speak...”

C. “that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

NOTE: I Pet. 3:15

PRAYER: Lord we ask you to open doors of opportunity to share the Gospel to those around us. Please give us wisdom and courage to speak for you that others might come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.