

Colossians 4.2-18 – Workers for Christ

Introduction

1. Read Matthew 5:13-16
2. The Gospel Has Implications for All of Life
3. Our Witness, Evangelism, Missions
4. We Live in a “Me” Generation
5. The Gospel is “Other” Oriented – **Romans 15.1-3**
6. What Does It Look Like To Spend Your Life For the Sake Of Others Who Do Not Call Jesus Lord?

Main Idea: God converts sinners by His grace through the means of faithful prayer and witness of believers.

Pray For The Spread Of The Gospel (Colossians 4:2-4)

1. **Pray Steadfastly – Devote Yourself (Verse 2a)**
 - a. Be Busy Praying
 - b. Without Ceasing (**1 Thess 5:17**)
 - c. Resolute Pursuit of God
 - d. Spiritual Maturity is Grounded in Fervor for Word and Prayer
2. **Pray Watchfully (Verse 2b)**
 - a. Vigilant, Awake, Aware
 - b. Prayer is a War-Time Walkie-Talkie To God
 - c. Declaration of War on Sin and Satan (**1 Peter 5:8**)
 - d. Request for Jesus to Finally Come and Win (**1 Thessalonians 5:2, 6**)
3. **Pray Thankfully (Verse 2c)**
 - a. To God for all things
 - b. Gratitude Turns Eyes Off Self, Onto God
 - c. Thankfulness is an Act of Selfless Worship
 - d. Unto His Glory (**John 14:3; 2 Cor 1:11**)
4. **Pray For Open Doors To The Gospel (Verse 3)**
 - a. Acts 14:27; 1 Cor 16:8-9; 2 Cor 2:12-13
 - b. The Gospel is Not Bound (**2 Tim 2:8-9**)
5. **Pray For The Gospel To Go Through The Door And Be Made Manifest And Understood (Verse 4)**
 - a. The Hidden Mystery to become Known
6. **Example of Prayer: Epaphras (Col 4:12-13)**

Conduct And Speech Is Essential To Your Christian Witness (Colossians 4:5-6)

1. **Walk in Wisdom (Verse 5)**
 - a. Foolish Conduct will Obstruct the Message
 - b. Be Wise (**Colossians 3:10-11, 16**)
 - c. Be Wise With Your Time – Opportunity to Evangelize? Take It!
2. **Seasoned Speech (Verse 6)**
 - a. Gracious, Gentle, Tactful
 - b. Not pushy, manipulative, or coercive
 - c. Not shaming one to believe
 - d. Salvation is God’s Work from Beginning to End – be faithful to present the message, then the Holy Spirit takes over

Examples Of Those Who Prayed And Walked In Wisdom (Colossians 4:7-14)

1. **Two Letter Carriers Who Encourage The Church:** Tychicus and Onesimus (**Verses 7-9**)
2. **Three Jewish Brothers Who Comforted Paul:** Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus (**Verses 10-11**)
3. **Three Gentile Brothers Who Prayed and Worked Hard for the Church:** Epaphras, Luke, and Demas (**Verses 12-14**)

Final Instructions (Colossians 4:15-17)

1. **Read The Letters – Read The Word of God!** (**Verses 15-16**)
2. **Fulfill Your Ministry – Be Doers Of The Word** (**Verse 17**)

Conclusion (Colossians 4:18)

1. **Remember Me In Prayer**
3. **Grace To You – Colossians begins/ends this way**