

Pray for Opportunities
Colossians 4:2-6

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I. Earnest prayer. Colossians 4:2

In Koine Greek, "**continue**" comes from the root meaning, "to be _____", which implies persistence and fervor, and **earnestly** speaks of great effort steadily applied. (Faithfulness in prayer)

- "If God be near a church, it must pray. If He not be there, one of the first tokens of His _____ will be slothfulness in prayer." (Spurgeon)

"The connection here with thanksgiving may suggest the threefold rhythm: intercession, 'watching' for answers to prayer, and thanksgiving _____ answers appear." (Wright)

II. Purpose for prayer. Colossians 4:3-4

Paul says, "**Meanwhile, praying also for us**", i.e., "While you are being vigilant in your _____ prayer life; please remember us in your prayers."

- Notice Paul did not pray for his own release from prison; rather he prayed the Lord would give him opportunities to proclaim Christ during his current _____.

III. Wisdom in speech. Colossians 4:5-6

"**Redeeming the time**" literally means to buy up something, or to take advantage of the _____.

- a. Salt _____.
- b. Salt _____.

"The disciples of Jesus preserve society from corruption; the "salt" causes excessive _____ which spells persecution for the saint".

(Oswald Chambers)

- c. Salt provides _____.
- d. Salt causes _____.

The Lord tells us we should hunger and thirst for things He can offer that will satisfy our deepest _____.

IV. Practical Application.

Paul encouraged these Christians in Colossae to pray for, and take advantage of, _____ for ourselves and others in order to share the Gospel.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Colossians 4:2**. What is "**earnest prayer**"? Is Paul advocating a work or duty when he tells his readers to earnestly pray?
Ephesians 2:8-10, Luke 17:12-18, Luke 18:1-8, James 5:16-18, 1 Corinthians 4:12, Philippians 1:22
2. Read **Colossians 4:6**. How does your tongue get you in trouble? What should characterize our speech?
1 Peter 3:10, Proverbs 10:19, James 3:1-12, Matthew 15:11
3. What should characterize our praying? How often do you pray Paul's request for yourself and others? What has happened as a result?
1 John 5:14, Mark 11:22-25, Philippians 4:6-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
4. How can we "walk in wisdom" toward unbelievers? What does speech "with grace, seasoned with salt" sound like?
Proverbs 28:26, Ephesians 5:15, Proverbs 2:1-9, Matthew 10:16, Acts 1:8
5. In sharing your faith, which is more important: your life or your lips?
Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:21, Romans 13:13, Titus 2:7, Ephesians 5:1-2, Galatians 2:20
6. Discuss the Practical Application to this sermon.

(Some questions from Warren Wiersbe)