

**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)