

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS • The Greatness of Jesus Christ
Lesson #9 • Colossians 4:2-6
“The Inward & Outward Life of a Christian”
• HANDOUT •

► After completing our study in Philemon, we now return to our study in Colossians. We left that study at the point where Paul had targeted special relationships within the body of Believers. Relationships that required compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Now, we pick up Paul's letter to the Believers at Colosse at the point where he expands his counsel to encompass all within the entire church, with special emphasis on the personal devotional life of the Believer.

Colossians 4:2 • Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Q: What does Paul mean when he says to “devote yourself?”

Q: What does it mean to practice watchfulness? “Watchfulness” is the Greek word: “gregoreo”
It literally means:

Q: When practicing watchfulness in our prayers, what should be our focus?

Colossians 4:3-4 • And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Q: What is amazing about Paul's request for prayer?

Q: What do Paul's words: “pray that I may proclaim the message as clearly as I should” possibly suggest to us?

Q: Paul uses “we” and “us” in this request. Was that intended to be understood as a literary use of pronouns or were there actually other prisoners with him?

Q: What is the “Mystery of Christ” which Paul says is responsible for him to be in chains?

Q: Why is this “Mystery” responsible for Paul being in chains?

Q: Why was it even considered a “Mystery” in the first place? Weren't there prophecies regarding the basic concepts of this in the OT?

Christians must live in the world that is often hostile to God.
Therefore, Paul gives three practical ways to be an effective witness for Christ ...

Colossians 4:5-6 · Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Q: The first advice Paul gives about being an effective witness is to “*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders*” What are the implications of this advice?

Paul gives similar advice in some of his other letters as well ...

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12a · Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders ...

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 · What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside...

1 Timothy 3:7 · He [a Christian Leader in the Church] must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Q: The second advice Paul gives about being an effective witness is to make the most of every opportunity. What did Paul have in mind when he wrote this advice?

Q: The third advice Paul gives about being an effective witness involves speech and conversations. What should govern the way we speak to one another?

Q: How do Christians make sure their conversations are “full of grace?”

Q: What does it mean that a Christian's conversation should be seasoned with salt?

Q: When we put the concepts of grace and salt together, what wise instruction do we get?

Q: How does cultivating this kind of speech result in knowing how to give a proper answer?

**Paul is getting ready to conclude his letter to the Believers at Colosse.
This is where we will pick up this study next time.**



**Next Time ◆ Lesson #10
“Concluding Remarks”**

