

Heavenly Minded Speech - Colossians 4:2-6

Review of Colossians: Paul's letter to the church at Colossae.

Written while Paul was in prison in Rome to address false teaching and to encourage, instruct, and build up the churches in this region.

- Paul clarifies the centrality and power of Jesus Christ (Col 1:15-23)
- Paul instructs to seek and set your minds on things above (Col 3:1-4)
- Put to death sin (Col 3:5-9) and put on Christ (Col 3:10-17)
- Practical instruction for the home (Col 3:18-4:1)

1. Relationship with God – Prayer: Verses 2-4 ²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

- Continue:** Implies that you were in prayer before, a history of praying, a reputation of praying (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- Steadfast:** They should devote themselves to (“persist, continue in”) prayer (Rom. 12:9-12).
- Watchful:** Guard against spiritual drowsiness (1 Cor. 16:13-14)
- Giving Thanks:** Thankfulness speaks to a proper heart attitude before God as we petition him and come before him (Phil 4:6-7)
- Open a door for the gospel message:** Note that Paul actively implores God to do something; not release him from prison, not to make his stay more comfortable, but to open a door for the gospel message. God draws sinners to himself and opens doors for us to communicate the gospel message to them.
- The mystery of Christ**
 - + The incarnate God (Col 2:1-3)
 - + Israel's unbelief (Rom. 11:25)
 - + The unity of Jew and Gentile made one in the church (Eph. 3:1–6)
 - + Lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:7)
 - + The Rapture of the church (1 Cor. 15:50-52)
 - + The mystery is specifically identified in Colossians 1:26-27.

2. Relationships with others: Verse 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

- Wisdom:** Paul states that he prayed for the church at Colossae, that they would bear fruit and grow in the knowledge of God (Col 1:9-10)
- Outsiders:** With respect to his readers' relationship to unbelievers ("outsiders"), Paul counseled the use of wisdom as most important.
- Best use of time: kairos means a proper time: opportunity:** The “best use of time” is taking advantage of God's provided opportunities to engage unbelievers with the gospel message.

3. Personal Readiness: Verse 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- Speech:** We should be ready “in season and out of season” to proclaim Christ wherever we are, in normal conversation. (2 Timothy 4:2)
- Gracious:** This is the method, should be always full of (“in”) grace (“gracious, pleasing”) (Col. 3:8-9)
- Seasoned with salt:** This is the message. Pure and penetrating
- That you may know how:** Ready to give an answer. Are you prepared? Did you do your devotions? Did you pray for an opportunity to talk to a specific person about Christ and what He did for you?
- To give an answer:** With gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)
- To each person:**
For most of us, this is a one-on-one conversation.

4. Applications:

- Study and understand what it means to walk with Christ (Union with Christ) Col 2:6-7
- Be thankful! For your position in Christ (Child of God, Co-heirs with Christ, Eternal security in Him)
- Live and talk in a way that is consistent with who we are in Christ.