

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

February 24, 2021

Colossians 4:2-6

Is This You?

[2] Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; [3] Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: [4] That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. [5] Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. [6] Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Once again a short passage of God's Word beautifully displays the whole of the Bible. Paul was a master in understanding and pronouncing the Lord's intentions. It is obvious that from his conversion in Acts 9 and on through his training in Christ that he was filled with the Holy Spirit who spoke through him in the letters he wrote. In five verses here in Colossians he speaks of remaining in prayer, being ever watchful and thankful and asking prayer for himself only as pertaining to the telling of the gospel. His agenda and ours is this; to prepare for the opening of doors so we can share the mystery of Christ with those on the outside.

We find a prescription here for being an everready witness which is the chief reason we remain on the planet. Let's follow the plan. 1) Prayer must be a constant in our lives. Our turning to the Lord and our open spiritual ears must surface each moment. Ephesians 6:18. 2) Watching in prayer speaks of a desire, an expectation and a looking/listening spirit. God does not do this for us. This is our responsibility but we do so in the faith He provides. Mark 11:24. 3) These first two requirements of Christian service MUST be done with thanksgiving. A thankful, humble heart ignites a peaceful, joyful spirit which God can use efficiently in His work. Philippians 4:6-7. 4) When we are settled into communion with our Savior we can begin with specific requests. Notice here that the first order of business is prayer for others and specifically for their opportunity to share the salvation offered through Christ, (Ephesians 6:19-20) here portrayed as a mystery. What is this mystery? That God has planned through all time and history to reveal to mankind the one and only permanent connection to Him; that the man, Jesus Christ died for sinners and by believing and confessing so provides eternal life. Romans 16:25. Notice something. It is fine to pray for self and others as pertaining to health and welfare but these are of no value unless they are tied to the gospel. A physical healing only postpones the inevitable consequence of life; Death. Every sickness or calamity is allowed by God to turn ourselves or others to Christ. An emergency room or a disaster site is a Providentially designed appointment for someone to hear the gospel of Jesus or to share His love and comfort. This life is momentary and meaningless without Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 12:7-10. 5) Our position on faith and the sharing of it can in itself bring us to unfavorable destinations. Illness, hardship, pain or prison. These can be used for good if we allow and yield in hard times. Romans 8:26-28. 6) Our WHOLE conversation whether in word or deed ought to speak of the revelation of Jesus Christ, to believers as well the unsaved. Philippians 1:27. 7) We are told in verse 5 that our interactions with the world ought to be guided by wisdom. We usually deal regularly with unsaved people and move on as if all meetings with others are routine. Truthfully, according to Paul, each time we go to a store or talk with someone, we are wasting time unless we are investing that time in eternity. How many opportunities have you missed to share the mystery of

Christ? While it would seem superfluous to witness for Jesus every time to everyone we meet we must at least be prayerfully prepared to share and to be looking to make the most of every chance we get. Buying back lost time and deeply considering our role among others should be always on our minds. 2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Peter 3:15. 8) Verse 6 clearly informs us on our public persona. We must consistently display flavor and grace to others knowing that no one mantra has value in all lives. Each person is unique and our methods of sharing will vary accordingly. The words we speak matter and a fifteen minute conversation can make an eternal difference in a life. Philippians 2:15-16. Prayer, wisdom, grace and flavor. Does this describe you?