

Centered in Christ: Prayer & Wisdom

Colossians 4:2-6

Prayer (v. 2-4)

- Paul encourages the Church to be devoted to prayer
 - This is NOT simply a call to pray on occasion or when we have serious need
 - It is a call to have a lifestyle that is centered on open communication with God
- It is defined by:
 - Alertness: An awareness of one's surroundings
 - A consciousness of the needs of those around you
 - Thankfulness: An attitude of gratitude
 - Remember, Paul is imprisoned as he wrote this
- Paul also encourages their prayer to be focused on his ministry
 - Explicitly the sharing of the Gospel
 - This includes opportunities, timing, and the wording

Wisdom (v. 5-6)

- Paul encourages us to walk in wisdom
 - Action oriented
 - Especially toward those who do not yet know Christ
 - Making the most of every opportunity to win them for Jesus
 - This is a call to let our actions preach the Gospel
 - "Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words." –Francis of Assisi
- Paul encourages us to talk with wisdom
 - This is a call for our speech to be:
 - Grace-filled: Kind & loving
 - Seasoned with salt"
 - Salt was used to both preserve food and add to its flavor
 - Our conversations should do the same
 - Preserve: Point people to Jesus who can save them
 - Add flavor: Bless and encourage others (see Matt. 5:13)
- Both are calls to use wisdom in meeting people where they are at when we speak to them
 - Just like Jesus does with us
- And all these are invitations to join Paul in his work of pointing others to Jesus!

So What?

- Are we devoted to prayer?
- Are we devoted to sharing Christ with others in both word & deed?

Meditation Verse: *Colossians 4:5*