

1st Over All

Colossians

Week 14 – Colossians 4:2-6 – Seasoned Life in Christ

Purpose: Christians will live by the sanctifying work within them in a way that is “seasoned” showing faith, love, giving thanks, praying, looking for opportunities to share the mystery of Christ, graciousness, and ready to answer questions posed to them that glorify God.

Call to Worship (Stand)

Read

Colossians 4:2-6 ESV

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At 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— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Prayer

Petition God to cause us to pray, be watchful of God’s work, and grow in giving thanks, and take opportunities to proclaim Jesus Christ and to do so with seasoned life and conversation. Cause us to see where you are working and giving faith to cause people to believe and hope in Jesus Christ!

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

A Man Lives by Faith

There is a man who has great authority in the military. He has a servant in his house who is deathly ill. The man hears of Jesus who has come into the area of his home. He requests the Jewish Elders to go and ask Jesus to come to the centurion’s home to heal his servant. The elders petition on behalf of the centurion because the centurion was generous to them and shows favor to the Jews. Jesus agrees and begins a journey to the

centurion's home. The centurion sends a servant to find Jesus and tell Him that Jesus did not need to come to the centurion's house. The centurion's words are, **(Luke 7:1-10)**

“Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

Jesus hears the centurion's words and knowing the centurion's heart responds. Scripture records Jesus' response...

⁹ When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

The centurion's response comes from a heart that has faith in Jesus Christ and not from a heart that is trying to gain influence or fake sincerity. Jesus shows us that the centurion has faith and lives by faith. There is a sanctifying work and it is evident in the centurion's request of Jesus and His words of his belief in Jesus.

Let's continue reading and studying Paul's letter to the Christians in Colossae to see how we can live **Christ 1st Over All**.

1st Over All Reminder

(SLIDE 2)

We Need God's Help

Be A Catalyst for Worship

God Makes Us Worthy to Walk

We Live to Show Christ is 1st Over All

(SLIDE 3)

We Will Live as Reconciled People

We Will Make Christ Known

We Will Live as “Connected In” People

We Will Live Liberated in Jesus Christ

(SLIDE 4)

We Will Live Sanctified in Jesus Christ

We Live with Risen Vision

Be Killing Sin

Be Putting On The New Life

Live in New Life Homes

Read

Colossians 4:2-6 ESV (SLIDE 5)

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. **3** At 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— **4** that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. **5** Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. **6** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 6)

Notes on Colossians 4:2-6

Persistent and Thankful Prayer (v. 2)

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

The Family who places Christ 1st Over All is now directed to pray. The call to pray is one that directs the husband, wife, children, and extended family to pray consistently and continually. They are to pray individually and as a family. Their prayer is just a time to forget the world and the things of life, but to it is also a time to be watchful as they pray. Watchful that they are living out their sanctification within the home and with the world. They are watchful over each area of relationships that Paul has addressed, and others. Each person in the family is to watch over their own walk and testimony within the family, for each relationship, and for the whole family. Paul adds a qualifier to the directive to steadfast and watchful prayer. Paul directs the saint to give thanks as they pray. The directive to give thanks as they watchfully and steadfastly pray continues an emphasis that the saint's heart and mind are to be thankful and give thanks to God. Paul directs the saints to give thanks to God for what He has given each of them in their family and give thanks to God for the ongoing work He is doing in each family member to cause them to make Christ 1st Over All in their life and with their family. This is a joyfully peaceful life when a family of Christians are obeying God together and enjoying the fruits of loving and serving each other. God's people pray for that in their family and give thanks as they experience it.

Opportunistic Prayer (v. 3-4)

3 At 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— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Paul has encouraged the Christian to focus on the intimate relationships in their lives. They are asking God to work in their heart and minds, work on their marriages and their household. Now, Paul reminds them that there is a bigger aspect of family and that they are to pray for them too. Paul knows that he needs prayer to live from the sanctifying work God is doing in him. There are others in prison with Paul. He knows they need prayer too. This includes Luke, Timothy, Aristarchus, Justus, John Mark, Epaphras, and Demas. These men are in prison with Paul and they cherish the prayers of righteous people. Paul is asking for something powerful and precious. Paul isn't asking to be delivered from imprisonment, but he is asking for God to give him and them men with him opportunities to share God's word with people and to disclose the mystery revealed in Jesus Christ. The mystery was previously written about in Colossians 1:26-27. Paul writes that God has revealed the mystery of Christ to the saints and they are to reveal the mystery of Christ to the world in a clear and effective manner. The mystery is that all people suffer the curse of sin – death and separation. There is hope to find relief from sin's curse in the Messiah/Christ. Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God. Faith alone in Christ alone will save God's people!

There is a warning in this request to pray and the commission to proclaim Christ. The world will reject the message and persecute the messenger. This is a warning in that the Christian cannot reject God's call to proclaim because of the danger of rejection and the Christian needs to strive to present the hope of Jesus Christ clearly. Paul petitions the saints to pray for him and the men in prison to understand the mystery revealed to them and to proclaim that mystery in prison and beyond as God gives an opportunity.

Walk Wisely (v. 5)

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Paul continues his direction toward the Colossian saints in telling them to walk in wisdom toward outsiders. This direction is important in a few ways. One, they need to understand their connection to people who do not have faith and do not believe in Jesus Christ. The Spirit is not working in them, and they are not being sanctified. Yet, Christians are called to live among the people in the world and partner with God as He draws them to Himself and saves them. Wisdom is needed to know how to live among and to live with people who are not part of the Body of Christ. Paul connects this wisdom with how Christians use their time. The Christian, through spiritual wisdom and discernment, will purposefully set boundaries so that they are obedient to

God while also using the time God gives with purpose and wisdom. The point Paul is making here is to not sacrifice family time for outsider time, yet Christians should demonstrate that wise relationships with outsiders is important. Wisdom from the Holy Spirit rooted and learned from God's word is vital to understand how to live obediently with one's family and with outsiders.

Seasoned Speech not Salty (v. 6)

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

The saint should have connections with outsiders! Walking in wisdom, Paul encourages them to live in such a way and talk in such a way that shows grace toward outsiders. This isn't a condescending tone or elite thought, but it is influenced by grace, mercy, and hope. Having guidance and direction from God through His word should be lived out in such a way that shows joy, peace, and contentment. Conversations should be honoring and seasoned with gratitude, showing non-believers that God's way is good and His provision is sufficient. Christians are not to air their grievances publicly, especially with outsiders, yet Christians should be truthful and honest. The Christian will not attract or win a person to salvation, but our seasoned speech will help us determine whom it is that God is giving faith to believe.

The way we talk about our easy and difficult situations will demonstrate our faith in God and the strength He gives to sustain His people through good and hard times. There is a difference between being salty and seasoning our words and conversations with salt. Saltiness is contradictory to living by faith and contentment with God's provisions for His people. To say that God is present and that He provides, then talking about lacking wants and complaining about one's life, job, family, and health demonstrates doubt and judgement of God. Also, as we talk with seasoned words and ideas, it gives the Christian an opportunity to glorify God and see if the person you are talking with has faith.

This doesn't prepare the Christian for every question that may be asked, but it does condition the Christian to have a reason for any hope they may have in difficult situations, loss, joy, and gain. This helps us see, once again, if people have faith and are living by the faith God gives. Not every question is answerable. There are some things that God knows and we don't, but the Christian needs to contemplate questions and search God's word and wise counsel for possible answers to questions asked by people, especially people who are living in darkness. Pray for knowledge. Pray for experience. Pray for wisdom. Pray for opportunities. Pray that every opportunity is utilized to glorify God with seasoned speech!

God's People Have Spiritually Seasoned Lives (SLIDE 7)

Pray Continuously (SLIDE 8)

Steadfastly

Consistently

Unwaveringly

Watchfully

Physical

Spiritual

Thankfully

Written about 7 times in Colossians

Petition

Opportunities

Clear Proclamation

Live Wisely (SLIDE 9)**Share Life with People**

In the Body of Christ

Outside the Body of Christ

Use Time Wisely

Strive For Holiness

Pursue Godliness

A Shared Resource

Rest

Talk Wisely

Influenced Spiritually

Truthfully

Gratitude

Praising God

Honoring Brothers and Sisters

Demonstrating Grace and Mercy

Faith Guided Answers to Questions and Responses

- **Wise Living Depends Upon Continuous Prayer (SLIDE 10)**

We Will Pray for Wisdom and Take Opportunities to Proclaim Hope in Jesus Christ (SLIDE 11)

In Our Homes

In Our Workplace

In Our School

In Our Neighborhood

Be On Mission

Read

Matthew 5:13-16 ESV (SLIDE 12)

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 13)