

CENTERED

Part 5: Four Christ-Centered Habits (Colossians 4:2-18)

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I. MAIN IDEA



The Apostle Paul closes the Book of Colossians in chapter four with an appeal to continue in prayer but being watchful, and to do so with thanksgiving to God. He asks for God to open a door for him so that the Word of God can be declared and the mystery of Christ, hidden for ages, will be made plain to those who are perishing. The very reason he was in prison was for preaching the gospel, yet he still asks for an open door, not the prison door, but the door for the gospel and to have the right words to speak.

II. OUTLINE

A. FOUR CHRIST-CENTERED HABITS (4:2-6)

- Praying with a purpose (4:2-4).
- Walking in wisdom (4:5a).
- Recognizing opportunities to share the gospel (4:5b).
- Speaking graciously (4:6).

B. PAUL'S FELLOW LABORERS (4:7-17)

- Tychicus (4:7-8): the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord.
- Onesimus (4:9): the slave mentioned in the Epistle to Philemon.
- Aristarchus (4:10): a Macedonian of Thessalonica (Ac 27:2), who was dragged into the theater at Ephesus, during the tumult with Gaius, they being "Paul's companions in travel.
- Jesus who is called Justus (4:11): He apparently remained faithful and of service to Paul during Paul's imprisonment in Rome.
- Epaphras (4:12): A preacher of the gospel and possibly the pastor of the church in Colossae.
- Dr. Luke (4:14a): A Gentile physician who cared for Paul's physical needs ("thorn in the flesh?")

- Demas (4:14b): a friend of Paul's who later deserted him because he loved this present world (2 Tim. 4:10).
- Nympha and the church in her house (4:15): A Christian woman who hosted the house church in Laodicea.
- Archippus (4:17): possibly the son of Philemon and Apphia (Philem. 2).

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What were Paul's two prayer requests in Col. 4:3-4?
- How could these two requests relate to us as a class?
- What do you suppose Paul meant by "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders" (Col. 4:5a)?
- Paul states that Christians are to make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel (4:5b). How can we recognize these opportunities?
- What do you suppose Paul meant by, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt" (4:6)?

IV. APPLICATION

- Pray for opportunities to _____
- Ask God to give you the ability to know _____ to share the gospel.
- Ask God to give you discernment to know _____ to share the gospel.