

APR. 15, 2018

Study Page: Col. 4:2-6

“Continue”

Reading Colossians 4:2-6

“Continue” is a significant word for Christians to highlight as the New Testament is read. Think of baptism as the beginning. Everything after that is *continuing*. And in this passage, prayer deserves that continued activity of faith. And in those prayers, we should watch to be certain thanksgiving is present. (Can you imagine thanking God too much?)

Paul expresses his interests in the prayers of Christians in Colossae. This is one of those several texts where the Holy Spirit gives us a window into the heart of Paul.

Consider all that Paul might have asked for. *Pray that we are safe, well-fed, adequately supported, received with amazing hospitality, never criticized.*

Instead Paul said, “...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, that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.**”



Colossians:

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What emerges here is the apostle’s priority: **Preaching the Word!** And, do not miss how clear he is about being clear! He wanted to be so clear, people hearing him would understand the revelation of the “mystery of Christ.” [This is not a mystery hidden, but a mystery revealed; see Rom. 16:25-27.]

As Christians continue their walk with the Lord after baptism, they must “walk in wisdom toward outsiders.” There is an ongoing relationship we have with non-Christians. We interact with neighbors, co-workers and friends who are not committed to Christ. One part of our evangelistic outreach must be the testimony of our lives, the influence of our behavior and reactions. We are to be the light of the world.

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Making the best use of the time, or in some translations this is worded, “redeeming the time.” Wouldn’t it be great to log on to Amazon and navigate to the “time department” and buy some extra hours or days? Or years!!

Dream on. What God expects of His people is, to wisely use the time He grants to us. We are charged in this passage to be good stewards of time. This involves the acceptance of the time the generous Creator gives us (with thanksgiving), then the use of that time with such devotion, we glorify Him and grow in our service to Christ.

Part of this good use of time is, “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Follow this carefully. If a generous Creator gives us time and all the other blessings we do not deserve, **shouldn’t we be gracious in all that we think and say?** No doubt.

“Seasoned with salt” is not *salty language* in the crude sense. It is speech that comes from those who are the salt of the earth. It seasons and makes pleasant and useful the various relationships and conversations

we are part of. The responsibility is to “know how you ought to answer each person.” This is about thoughtful speech, not impulsive speech. Helpful, not hurtful. Spiritual, not carnal. Godly, not ungodly.

Continue in these things!