

## Opening Prayer

Ask God for understanding and conviction to pray regularly for the lost and to witness to them in wisdom and love. Ask Him to equip us to share Christ clearly and with speech that brings Him glory.

## Recap

In Col. 4:2-6, Paul leaves the Colossian believers with parting words regarding the duties of believers awaiting Christ's return. He calls them to be preoccupied with three activities. We must have a posture of devoted prayer with an emphasis on praying for the spread of the gospel. We must also witness in wisdom as we seek to preach Christ to all people. Finally, our speech must be seasoned and gracious as we respond to the lost and point them to Christ.

## Understanding the Text

1. Where was Paul when he wrote this passage (v. 3)? What does that tell us about how seriously he took the call for an open door to evangelism?
2. What role does alertness have in a devotion to pray?
3. What does it mean to walk in wisdom toward the outsiders (v. 5)?
4. How does this passage help us to understand the role of God and man in evangelism?
5. What is meant by speech that is seasoned with salt?
6. Given that the gospel message is always the same, what place does understanding the outsider have in our evangelism?

## Practical Application

1. How can you be more devoted in prayer? How can you be more alert in prayer?
2. Do you consistently pray for those "outsiders" to grace in your life? How can you work this into the rhythm of your prayer life or that of your family?
3. Does the sovereignty of God in opening the door to evangelism excite you or make you complacent?
4. How can we as a church encourage each other to be constant in prayer? In evangelism?
5. Is your speech 'seasoned with salt'? Is it attractive and winsome to the outsider or gruff and standoffish?

6. Does fear of failure hinder your gospel witness? How does this passage help you to trust God in this?

## **God Has More to Say**

### **Prayer**

Matt. 26:40-41

Lk. 18:1-8

Col. 1:9

2 Thess. 3:2

### **Wisdom**

Col 2:3

Eph. 5:15-16

James 1:5

James 3:17

Col 3:16

### **Speech**

Ps. 141:3

Lk 4:22

Eph 5:4

Titus 2:7-8

### **A Heart for the Lost**

Matt. 9:36-38

1 Cor 10:32-33

1 Cor. 16:9

2 Cor 2:12

### **Faithfulness to the Gospel**

Matt. 28:19-20

Rom. 1:16

1 Cor. 1:17

1 Cor. 1:22-24

2 Cor. 5:20

### **God's Sovereignty in Evangelism**

Jn 6:44

Ac. 13:48

Ac. 14:27

Ac. 16:14

Rom. 8:29-30

2 Tim 1:9