

WISDOM TOWARDS OUTSIDERS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—February 20th, 2022

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.

MAIN POINT: Christianity is a mission which encompasses our entire lives.

MISSIONAL PRAYER (2-4)

The bible paints a picture of prayer as a first resource discipline for the Christian.

“Watch” to strengthen his disciples before the cross.

Matt 26:41, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

Watchful prayerfulness is our strongest weapon against sinfulness.

“Watch so Christians won’t become complacent about the end times.

- **Matt 25:13**—Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
- **Luke 12:37**—Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes.
- **Rev 3:3**—Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.
- **Rev 16:15**—(“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

Often, we think that prayerlessness is produced by a lack of discipline. But prayerlessness, at its root, is produced by a lack of desire.

Prayerlessness in the life of the believer is first overcome with honesty.

“Prayer is not a place to be good, it is a place to be honest. Prayer is not a place to perform, it is a place to be present. Prayer is not a place to be right, it is a place to be known. Prayer is not a place to prove your worth, it is a place to receive worth and offer yourself in truth.” – **Kyle Strobel**, *Where Prayer Becomes Real*

Paul asks the Colossians to pray for two things

- (1) Gospel opportunities.
- (2) Gospel clarity.

Why is it necessary for the gospel to be proclaimed consistently and clearly? Because it is the gospel that saves!

Rom 1:16—*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

MISSIONAL LIVING (5-6)

Walk and wisdom = direction in life...purpose and pursuit

Prov 2:7—...[God] stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity...

Our lives are a representation of the God who redeemed us.

‘Outsiders.’ = unbelievers / ‘Insiders’ = Colossians/believers

There is no salvation outside of the church because there is no salvation outside of Christ.

- **Col 1:18**—*And he is the head of the body, the church.*
- **Col 1:24**—*Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church...*

Making the best use of the time.

2 Cor 6:2—*In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

Isa 55:6-7—*[6] Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; [7] let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Mature believers convey the same message through their walk and speech.

A speech that is seasoned with salt is a speech that is

- Humble & Winsome

Matt 5:13—*“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.”*

CBC VALUE: Mission Minded Ministry

Jesus gave us a mission and we are committed to fulfilling this mission.