

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

MAY 24, 2020

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

²Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*; ³praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

⁵Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

STUDY IT

- **Review:** According to Paul, how Christians treat one another matters. In these verses, we are reminded of ways to pray that invite transformation in ourselves and in others. What does it mean to pray with alertness and thanksgiving¹? (v.2)
- **Read Ephesians 6:10-20.** In this “parallel” teaching, Paul describes the way God provides tools and protection for his people (aka “the armor of God”). Though he does not write with the same detail in the Colossian passage, how are we to see prayer as a tool for strength and boldness during times of spiritual warfare and during times of peace?
- What was Paul’s situation when he wrote this letter? How would you describe his attitude toward this situation? (v.3)
- What kind of opportunities might he have for doors to be open? (vs.3-4) What does this request reveal about Paul’s calling?
- How does the Bible emphasize our ability to communicate the “mystery of Christ” with clarity and with boldness? (vs.3-4)

¹ Several times in this letter, the apostle mentions this attitude (1:3, 12; 2:7, 3:17, and here in 4:2). When we are watchful (against temptation), we are also mindful of the tools and strength which God has provided against such forces.

- Who are the *outsiders*? Why do they matter to God? And why *should* they matter to the church community? (v.5)
- How does someone “make the most of the opportunity”? (v.5)
- What is speech that is “full of grace”? (v.6)
- Jesus speaks of *salt* in a similar way to his followers. Read these two passages and consider how each demonstrate our live before God and each other:
 - Matthew 5:13-16
 - Mark 9:49-50

APPLY IT

- How can you “keep alert” with thanksgiving *in your prayer life*?
- What opportunities do you have in sharing the “mystery of Christ”? What opportunities would you ask God to open for you?
- How do you let your way of talking demonstrate grace?
- Conversely, how might your speech prevent you from sharing your faith?
- What are some ways you would ask God to help you respond better?