

A Christian Lifestyle—inside and out

Colossians 4:2-18

A Life of Prayer (2-4)

As elsewhere, Paul emphasizes a life that is in constant communion with the Lord.
Cf. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; etc.

Paul uses a verb that means to be devoted to or to persist in

This is the controlling command: *let prayer be something you intentionally pursue*

Paul emphasizes two attitudes that go along with our prayerfulness:

Alertness/Watchfulness

Thanksgiving

Being Watchful in Prayer

Cf. Mark 14:38; 1 Peter 5:8

This watchfulness includes (possibly here but definitely elsewhere) an awareness that Christ will return and we should be ready for His arrival.

It also includes being alert to the enemies attacks, the enemies tactics, and our own weaknesses.

Being Thankful in Prayer

Cf. Philippians 4:6-7

Gratitude depends on turning your attention to the Lord.

Turning to the Lord means pondering His works and words

Remembering Romans 8:31-32

Thanksgiving helps us to focus not on the circumstances but on the Lord's ability and power over the circumstances.

Being Gospel-centered in Prayer

Paul is in prison—what is he thinking about?

The door he wants opened is not for him to walk out of... but for the Word of God, the message of the Gospel to go in through.

The Word transforms

Phil 1—Paul's heart: let the Gospel be proclaimed

Cf. 2 Timothy 2:8-10

Notice that Paul wants to speak in such a way as to reveal Christ

A Life of Wisdom (5-6)

Focus: Our interaction with the world (we're in the world, but not of it)

The call: *walk/live in wisdom*

Note: What is the role of wisdom literature in our lives? One author put it this way: "Wisdom provides a proper environment for the Christian walk."

"Biblical wisdom refers to practical skills associated with understanding and living a successful life." *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*.

Of course, the beginning of wisdom is *the fear of the Lord* (Proverbs 9:10).

Wisdom comes with knowing God

Wisdom comes with understanding the self

The clarification: *make your time count!*

Time is significant and must be used for God's glory

There is a sense here in which Paul is calling the Colossians to "always be ready"

Cf. 2 Tim 4:2

Cf. 1 Peter 3:15

Wise use of language/tongue—one author: "powerful and attractive testimony"

Gracious

Cf. Ephesians 4:29—offering grace through our words

Moo: "a gracious and attractive tone"

Gentleness, not returning hostility, etc.

Seasoned with salt

Cf. Matthew 5:13—salt of the earth (preserve, sterilize, season)

With speech: interesting, stimulating, wise (ESV Notes)

Can mean, "witty, winsome (charming, engaging)"

Answer each person

Note the assumption: our godly, wise living will bring up questions.

We will have relationships that will allow us to offer the Good News

Each person has value and uniqueness

Final Greetings (7-18)

A few quick thoughts:

- 1- Onesimus is valued and honored (he is a slave who came to Christ)
- 2- Paul's position on John Mark has changed, been repaired
- 3- Epaphras is honored; Paul likes to show how the entire Body is at work
- 4- Paul knows how important his exhortations are, doesn't shy away

Mount Ararat Bible Church

All-Church Study

February 9, 2017