

“Closing Remarks”

Colossians 4:2-18

Central Idea: Prayer, wisdom, and fellowship are integral aspects of the believer's life.

I. The Prayer Life of the Believer (2-4)

- Prayer should be a priority and have our constant attention
- Similar to other instruction given (1 Thess. 5:17, Eph. 6:18)
- Two General Guidelines
 - Be alert: to be vigilant or wide awake
 - What Jesus asked of the disciples in the garden
 - Be thankful: Pray with an attitude of thanksgiving
- Two Specific Requests
 - That God give Paul opportunities to share the Gospel
 - The mystery of Christ is the Gospel; Paul's main concern
 - That Paul would speak clearly in these opportunities

II. The Public Life of the Believer (5-6)

- Walk with wisdom
 - Outsiders = Unbelievers; the goal is they become insiders
 - This can be aided by our acting with wisdom
 - Wisdom = knowledge applied; living in light of God's truth
 - This conduct can be a powerful evangelistic tool
 - “Making the most of the opportunity” = redeeming the time
 - Buy up every opportunity to influence others for Christ
- Talk with grace
 - A person's speech expresses what is in their heart
 - Our speech should demonstrate God's grace
 - It should be beautiful and captivating
 - Our speech should be attractive to others
 - It should be tailored to meet the needs of the individual

III. The Personal Life of Paul & the Colossians (7-18)

- Those Carrying Paul's Message (7-9)
 - Tychicus: A trusted and dependable friend of Paul
 - Sent to inform them about Paul and encourage them
 - Onesimus: Runaway slave sent back to Philemon
- Those Who Send Their Greetings (10-14)
 - Three Jewish Believers
 - Aristarchus: Traveling companion of Paul
 - Mark: Barnabas' cousin, previously had deserted Paul, but their relationship has been restored
 - Jesus Justus: With Paul in Rome
 - These are the only Jewish “fellow workers”
 - Three Gentile Believers
 - Epaphras: Early part of the Colossian church
 - Extremely devoted to God, Paul, and “his” churches
 - Commended for his ministry of prayer
 - Constantly fighting for the Colossians in prayer
 - Luke: Friend of Paul, useful physically and spiritually
 - Demas: working with Paul, will later desert him
- Those Who Are Greeted (15-18)
 - Two churches: In Laodicea and in Nympha's home
 - This letter is to be shared among these churches
 - Archippus: Possibly the son of Philemon
 - Has been given a ministry and needs encouraged in it

Application:

- Take the opportunities you're given; Fulfill your ministry
 - We all have a place to serve, make the most of yours
- Pray; It's vitally important
 - Can be done by anyone, anywhere, anytime
- It's never too late to do these things