

Living Beyond Adversity

Colossians 4:2-6

Introduction

I Remain Focused On Prayer

- A. Paul's command to **devoted** prayer - Rom 12:12
 - 1. Being **watchful** for: - Eph 6:18
 - a. Satan's schemes - 2 Cor 2:11; Mt 26:41; Lk 21:36
 - b. God's opportunities - Eph 2:10
 - 2. Being **thankful** - Col 2:6-7; 3:15, 17; 1 Thess 5:16-18
 - a. For the challenges - Rom 5:2-3; James 1:2-4
 - b. For the blessings - James 1:17
- B. Paul's request for **intercessory** prayer
 - 1. **Open** doors for the message - 2 Cor 2:12; Rev 3:8
 - a. The mystery of Christ - Col 2:3
 - b. For which Paul was in chains - Eph 6:19-20
 - 2. **Clarity** of proclamation - Eph 6:19-20

II Remain Focused On The Mission

- A. Be wise in the way you **act** toward outsiders - Titus 2:7-8
- B. Make the **most** of every opportunity - Eph 5:15-16
- C. Let your conversation be always full of **grace** - Matt 7:1-2
 - 1. Seasoned with **salt** - Mk 9:50
 - 2. So that you may know how to **answer** everyone - 1 Pt 3:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time when you overcame some sort of hardship (financial, physical, or emotional) in order to achieve a higher goal. What were the circumstances? What was the outcome?
2. If you were in Paul's "shoes" (falsely accused and in chains for preaching the gospel) what would you have asked the saints to

- pray for? Strength? A good lawyer? Deliverance? What was Paul's request? What can you learn his example?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how watchful and thankful would you say you are when it comes to your prayer life? Take a few minutes and identify some of 1) Satan's schemes and 2) God's opportunities from this past week. Then read James 1:3-5 and thank Him for not just the blessings, but also the challenges of this past week.
 4. Paul's request in Col 4:3-4 for an open door and clarity of proclamation is a great format for prayer for the unbelievers God has placed in your life. Take a few minutes right now and ask God for both opportunity and clarity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.
 5. What are some of the things that believers sometimes do that unnecessarily turn-off unbelievers? On the other hand, what have you discovered to be effective in communicating the gospel to your friends and family?
 6. Read Colossians 4:5-6. Why do you think Paul emphasizes "grace" and "salt" in the proclamation of the gospel? What do you tend to emphasize? With what results?
 7. Take some time for intercessory prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring unbelievers to mind, and as He does, ask God to:
 - a. Help you look beyond your immediate circumstances to the greater mission God has given you in life
 - b. Open your eyes to recognize His divine appointments
 - c. Give you clarity and grace in presenting the gospel
 - d. Give your friends a heart to respond to the gospel

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

Copyright, Bob Hallman, 1996-2020, All Rights Reserved.