

# Living Beyond Adversity

Colossians 4:2-6

## Introduction

### I Remain Focused On Prayer

- A. Paul's command to \_\_\_\_\_ prayer - Rom 12:12
  - 1. Being \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ - 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 \_\_\_\_\_ prayer
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 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. \_\_\_\_\_ of proclamation - Eph 6:19-20

### II Remain Focused On The Mission

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