

Question from last week: Col. 3:25 – How are these slaves paid back their wrongs?

Persistent Prayer and Tireless Action – Col. 4:2-6

1. Devote yourself to prayer – Col. 4:2

- a. Describe a time in your life where you wanted to be devoted to prayer, but struggled to make that a reality.

- b. Have you found anything to be helpful in being devoted to prayer?

- c. ***Being Watchful***
 - i. How would being watchful help a believer be devoted to prayer? (Psalm 8)

 - ii. This is describing a spiritual alertness
- d. ***Being Thankful***
 - i. What are some things that we can be thankful to God for that we often take for granted?

 - ii. Application: That being said, we are coming up on thanksgiving. How could prayer have a larger place on your thanksgiving?

2. Pray for us too – Col. 4:3-4

- a. Billy Graham said, "Heaven is full of answers to prayers for which no one ever bothered to ask. Have faith in the God of the dream; let's ask God to bring the dream to completion. God's answer is ready; it's just waiting for our personal and persistent request."
- b. ***That God would open a door for our message – Col. 4:3***
 - i. What was it about Paul's situation as he is writing this letter that hindered his message?
 1. Acts 28:16, 30-31
 2. Col. 4:3b

 - ii. "So that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ"
 1. What is the mystery of Christ? (Eph. 3:6)

2. Why was this a particular burden for Paul?

a. Col. 1:25-26

b. Col. 1:27

iii. "For which I am in chains" - How was this message the reason for Paul's chains? (Acts 21:17-32)

c. ***Prayer for clear communication of the message – Col. 4:4***

i. What are possible goals that people have when explaining things?

ii. "As I should" (the duty and obligation)

3. **Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders – Col. 4:5-6**

a. ***Make the most of every opportunity – Col. 4:5***

i. Anyone care to describe a time that they didn't make the most of an opportunity?

ii. How can we keep from missing these opportunities?

b. ***Let your conversation be always full of grace***

i. Does this mean that we are being gracious all of the time?

c. ***Seasoned with salt***

i. Matt. 5:13-16

ii. *"So that you will know how to answer everyone"*

1. Is this the answer to everyone?

2. Are there situations where answering with grace that acknowledges God's work is not the answer?