

May 31, 2020

Pastor Andy McClellan

“Ministry, in the Name of Jesus”

Colossians 4:2-6

Series: Colossians

Outline:

1. **PERSONAL: Be ALERT and THANKFUL in prayer**, v. 2 (*cf.* 2:17, 3:1-2, 16; *Ephesians* 6:18; *Romans* 12:12; *1 Corinthians* 16:13; *1 Peter* 5:8; *Matthew* 26:38-41; *Mark* 13:34-37).
2. **PARTNERS: Be GOSPEL-CENTERED in your prayers**, vv. 3-4 (*cf.* 1:26, 2:2; *Acts* 14:27; *2 Cor.* 2:12; *Eph.* 6:19-20; *Rom.* 1:16, 15:30-32; *Philippians* 1:12-14).
3. **PUBLIC: Be WISE and GRACIOUS in your relationships with unbelievers**, vv. 5-6 (*cf.* 2:6; *Mark* 9:50; *Eph.* 5:15-16; *1 Thessalonians* 4:12; *1 Timothy* 3:7; *1 Peter* 3:15-16; *Titus* 2:11-14; *Psalms* 90:12).

Family Time:

In Colossians 4:2, Paul tells the Colossians to be watchful in prayer, with thanksgiving. What does it mean to be “watchful” or “on alert”? Discuss a time when you were “on alert” or especially “watchful.” Why was that? Read Matthew 26:38-41. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to be watchful? How is being watchful connected to prayer? How is it connected to being thankful? Thankful for what? How can your family be both watchful and thankful in prayer?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Read Colossians 1:3-14; 2:1-5; 3:1-11, 17 and 4:2. What has been Paul’s desire for the Colossian church throughout this letter? Why is his instruction in 4:2 so necessary for their ability to accomplish 3:17? Why is it so necessary for you?
2. Scan the book of Colossians and note how many times Paul references giving “thanks.” Why is thankfulness such an important theme in Colossians? How many of those occurrences are connected to prayer? Why is thankfulness so important as a part of prayer? What are you thankful for? Spend some time expressing your thankfulness to God.
3. Read Colossians 4:3-4 and note the 2 specific things Paul requests that the Colossians pray for. Now, make a list of those you know who are engaged in proclaiming the Gospel both near and far (hopefully your own name is on that list). Pray the same things for them.
4. Read Colossians 4:5. The phrase “making the best use of the time” literally means something like “buy up while it’s available” (like a recent run on toilet paper?). Why does Paul use that phrase in the context of v. 5? What does it mean to make the best use of the time in our relationships with outsiders (unbelievers)? What would it look like to waste that time? Use the cross references in Pt. 3 above if you need help.

NEXT WEEK: Colossians 4:7-18