

Theme: A Christ filled life is one devoted to prayer and to seeing the Gospel go forth, making the most of the opportunities God gives us to share His good news.

## I. Intro – Responsibilities to Unbelievers?

- A. Been looking at a Christ filled life in Colossians
- B. Seen a lot about personal, church, and family life
- C. How does a Christ filled life reach out to the lost?
- D. Paul tackles this topic in today's text

## II. A Christ Filled Life of Prayer

- A. The first command - be devoted to prayer (4:2)
  - 1. Devoted - stick by, be close at hand [Mark 3:9]
  - 2. Came to have idea to continue in; persevere
  - 3. 50% of uses in NT - devoted to prayer
  - 4. A Christ filled life is devoted to prayer
  - 5. Persistence in prayer is our call
- B. Two key ingredients - watchful and thankful (4:2)
  - 1. Not commands like 'devoted' - same sentence
  - 2. Describe our persistent prayers
  - 3. Watchful - alert; vigilant; paying attention
    - a. Often used to speak of watching for Christ's return
    - b. There is an eschatological focus in 3:23-4:1
    - c. But main idea here is probably just 'pay attention'

- d. Matthew 26:41 - be alert; pay attention!
  - e. We should pay attention, pray for strength
  - f. Pay attention, pray for where God is working
- 4. Thankful - 6th time in this short letter!
    - a. 1:3; 1:12; 2:7; 3:15; 3:17; 4:2 - thankfulness!
    - b. This is a key ingredient in the Christian life
    - c. Important in prayer - as God works - give thanks!
  - 5. Be watchful and thankful in prayer!

## C. A key prayer concern - the great commission (4:3-4)

- 1. Not commands like 'devoted' - same sentence
- 2. Key concern - message, proclaim - great commission
- 3. Pray for God to open doors (v3)
- 4. Pray for ability to proclaim it clearly (v4)
- 5. Especially for those commissioned to proclaim the gospel
  - a. Notice 1st person pronouns - prayer for Paul & team
  - b. Certainly includes missionaries today
  - c. Also includes those whose job is preaching/teaching
  - d. This is why we pray for both in our meetings!!
- 6. But we should pray same for ourselves - see vv5-6
- 7. Pray for the Word to go forth!

## III. A Christ Filled Life of Evangelism

- A. The second command - be wise with unbelievers

1. 'Walk in wisdom towards the outsiders'
2. The concern here is for evangelism
  - a. Outsiders; opportunity; conversation; answer
  - b. Also note previous context - evangelism

#### B. Key ingredients for effective evangelism

1. Evangelism should be done wisely
  - a. Pay attention to you cultural context
  - b. Much 'evangelism' today is culturally foolish
  - c. Example - Niger villages vs. Annapolis
2. Evangelism - making the most of opportunities
  - a. Literally 'buying up the time' - NIV gets the idea
  - b. kairos - opportune moments - use them!
  - c. Same idea as 'open door' in v3
  - d. Going thru open doors - not kicking doors down!
  - e. Example - conversations with your kids
  - f. Pray for open doors - and go through them!
3. Evangelism - properly seasoned speech
  - a. Proper conversation is key!
  - b. Full or grace - with grace or graciousness
  - c. Both are true - speak of grace graciously
  - d. Hate filled evangelism violates both!
  - e. Seasoned with salt - not insipid words

4. Evangelism - individual interaction
  - a. Know how to answer everyone (v6)
  - b. Everyone - 'every single one' in Greek (see ESV)
  - c. Fits with 'wisdom' and 'opportunity' in v5
  - d. Idea is wise interactions with individuals we know

#### C. An example - Jeff, Sandy, and Patrick

### IV. Applying the Word

#### A. Am I praying for the Gospel to go forth?

1. We are all called to pray for this
2. Do I pray for missionaries - Sunday and daily?
3. Do I pray for BRCC teachers - Sunday and daily?
4. Big vision for Great Commission leads to vibrant prayer!

#### B. Am I wisely sharing the Gospel with others?

1. We are all called to reach out with the gospel
2. Do I pray for God to open doors for me to share?
3. Am I looking for open doors?
4. Am I wise and winsome in sharing the Good News?

#### C. Prayer - for us and the lost in our area

### Christ Filled Prayer and Evangelism

Colossians 4:2-6  
 July 1, 2012  
 Communion  
 Psalm 67:1-2