



uncommon sense the search for biblical wisdom

Growth Group Curriculum

Week 7 – February 20, 2022 – Colossians 4:2-6

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

Colossians, along with Ephesians, Philemon and Philippians, is considered one of the Prison Epistles and was more than likely written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome. Colossae had once been a prominent city, but after the Romans began to rule, the road system was changed and Laodicea became the more prominent city. Hierapolis, Laodicea and Colossae formed a triangle of cities.

The church was probably founded during Paul's third missionary journey when he was in Ephesus. A man named Epaphras (Colossians 1:3-8) had visited with Paul and became a believer and returned home. This was around 53-55 AD. Now, seven to ten years later Paul writes this letter from Rome and Epaphras is with him.

Paul starts and ends this letter with a call for the people to pray. Paul literally writes that they are to be watchful in thankfulness. If you want to pray well, you start from a posture of thankfulness. Paul could have been easily discouraged since he was writing from prison, but he looked beyond his circumstances and remembered the grace that had been given to him through Jesus Christ.

We are to "walk" in the way of wisdom. We are to act wisely because the people in our community and world need examples of Godly wisdom. The people of Colossae were to make the most of their time because no one knew how much time was left.

A wise person's "words and language" will be filled with grace and seasoned with salt. As Paul writes this, he is thinking about how people speak with those outside the faith community. Are believers seeking out ways to build others up? Were the Colossians making sure that their language and actions were not a stumbling block to the outside world?

Paul says you need to show wisdom by seasoning your conversations with salt. Their words needed to show forth the winsomeness of the faith. It is implied that if we want to make sure our speech about God is not bland, then we need to get close to Jesus, so that God's word can help "season" our lives.

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Exploring the Text

Colossians 4:2-6

²Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) How well do you know your neighbors? Do you ever talk with them about significant things?
- 2) The idea of devotion, in verse 2, has to do with persistence. Can you think of a time in your life when you persisted in prayer?
- 3) Share about a time in your life when you felt like the door was opened for you to share your faith with someone else.
- 4) Paul says that we are to act wisely when it comes to our interactions with those who do not share our faith. What does it look like for us to live wisely in the midst of a secular world?
- 5) Part of the reason why Paul was concerned about the behavior of believers around non-believers was because he believed the return of Christ was imminent. What they said mattered. Do you ever reflect on the second return of Christ? Do you think the apostle Paul would be surprised to learn that some 2000 years later Jesus had still not returned?
- 6) We are living in a time when a lot of the words and language that we hear is based on contempt instead of grace. What should we do about that? How do we continue to speak words of grace, especially to people we disagree with?
- 7) A wise person should speak in such a way that their language is full of grace and seasoned with salt. Why do you think Paul used the imagery of our speech being seasoned with salt? How does that connect to our words being full of grace?
- 8) Is there a place in your life where you feel that the words you speak are not full of grace and seasoned with salt? Is there something you can do about that?

