

A Christ-Like Life Colossians 4:2-6

In Colossians 2&3, Paul urges a life that shows their trust in Jesus Christ
As he closes, he gives some final instruction to help them in that life

Pray (2-4)

Devoted Prayer - "*continue earnestly*" NKJ - Romans 12:12; 1Thessalonians 5:17

People faithfully continue prayer was concern of Lord as well - Luke 18:1

We have several wonderful examples to serve as role models...

David, a man after God's own heart - Psalms 55:16-17

Daniel, a man greatly beloved by God - Daniel 6:10

Anna, elderly widow blessed to see Christ-child - Luke 2:36-37

Paul himself - Colossians 1:9

Epaphras, member at Colossae - Colossians 4:12

Many people pray only when crisis - should not be true of us!

Alert Prayer - "*be vigilant*" NKJ

Jesus warned disciples watchful in prayer - Mark 13:37; Matthew 26:41

So His apostles warn us - Ephesians 6:18; 1Peter 4:7

Through "watchful" praying, will not be caught unprepared by:

Satan, and temptation to sin, Death, and judgment to follow

Christ, and glories for those ready when He comes again

Thankful Prayer - "*with thanksgiving*"

Epistle's emphasis - being thankful - Colossians 1:3,12; 2:7; 3:15,17; 4:2

Someone said, "We should thank God just as diligently in our prayers as we make requests of Him." - Philippians 4:6

Let's be sure to "abound with thanksgiving"!

Purposeful Prayer - "*praying ... for us*"

Prayers often too general in requests, lacking specific purpose

Paul often asked for specific prayers in his behalf - Romans 15:30-32

What specific request make for those preach & teach God's Word?

Opportunity - Colossians 4:3; 2Thessalonians 3:1-2

Wisdom & clarity - Colossians 4:4

Boldness - Ephesians 6:19-20

As we endeavor to live Christ-like life, make right kind of prayer crucial element! Prayer that is:

*faithful *watchful *thankful *purposeful.

Conduct With Wisdom (5)

Christians to be concerned with how "walk" - conduct themselves

Are to walk in wisdom especially "toward those outside"

By proper conduct, can influence for good - 1Peter 3:1-2

World judges by conduct, their privilege - John 13:35; 17:20-21

If for no other reason such wisdom imperative - because of "time"

To be exact, the lack of time! - Ephesians 5:15-17

The time we have in this life is short

We cannot afford to waste much of it through foolishness

Some people need Christ whose time even shorter than ours!

We need to "redeem" the time; i.e., make most of time we have

Speak With Grace (6)

Power of tongue vividly illustrated - James 3; James 3:2,6

Inconsistent for us to use it for both good and evil - James 3:9-10

Therefore, need to learn to speak "with grace" - Luke 4:22; Ephesians 4:29

No corrupt communication is to proceed out of our mouths

Speech properly flavored so well received by others - Colossians 4:6

Especially around those NOT Christians - 2Timothy 2:23-26

Are we as careful with own speech, as want others to be w/lives?

Do we speak words of truth in same gracious manner He did?

Three simple exhortation if heeded, have powerful impact on lives

Prayer

Conduct

Speech

Our success in being like Christ will be demonstrated in our use of these.

Mark Copeland EO