

Sunday, October 31, 2021—Colossians 4:2-4 Continue in Prayer

Colossians 4:2

- **Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;**
- Verse 2 begins a new paragraph that runs till the end of verse 4.
- **Continue in prayer**—the verb “continue” is in present tense, active voice, and imperative mood. Which means that it is yet another imperative command. Which means that Paul is commanding the Colossians to “continue” praying. The way this command is worded implies that the Colossians had already been praying. Put another way, the command is not for them to begin praying but for them to “continue” doing something that had already been doing.
 - Colossians 1:3, 9—we have already seen Paul mention prayer in relation to his prayers for the Colossians. Col. 4:2 is the first time we see anything about the prayers of the Colossians.
- Paul takes for granted the fact that the Colossians had already been active in prayer. He now commands them to “continue in prayer.”
 - Romans 12:12
 - Ephesians 6:18
 - Philippians 4:6
 - I Thessalonians 5:17-18
- Colossians 4:2—prayer is vital to your Christian life.
 - Romans 1:9—“make mention of you in my prayers”
 - Ephesians 1:16—“making mention of you in my prayers”
 - Philippians 1:3—“upon every remembrance of you”
 - I Thessalonians 1:2—“making mention of you in our prayers”
 - II Timothy 1:3—“remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day”
 - Philemon 4—”making mention of thee always in my prayers”

- **and watch in the same with thanksgiving**—the English verb “[watch](#)” carries a bunch of relevant meanings, according to Noah Webster’s *American dictionary of the English Language*.
 - Acts 20:31
 - I Corinthians 16:13
 - Ephesians 6:18—“watching”
 - I Peter 5:8—“vigilant”
- Colossians 4:2—to “watch in the same” is a reference to “prayer” in the first half of the verse. We are to use prayer to set a “watch” over our lives. The course of this world is unrelenting in its attacks upon our hearts and minds.
- **with thanksgiving**—once again we see the importance of “thanksgiving” when it comes to prayer. Continuance and watchfulness in prayer need to always be coupled with the issue of “thanksgiving.”
 - Colossians 2:7
 - Colossians 3:15, 17
 - Philippians 4:6
 - I Thessalonians 5:16-18—“in everything”
 - Ephesians 5:20—“for all things”
- Colossians 4:2—“thanksgiving” is what keeps us from being bitter and angry people. Ingratitude is the seedbed of sin.
- Philippians 4:6—Paul instructs that believers are to be “careful for nothing.” That includes prayer. God gave us prayer as method and mechanism for dealing with our anxiety and worry. We should not be full of care about prayer. Everything in your life is fair game when it comes to prayer.
- The only way to mess prayer up is to not do it.
- Philippians 4:7—I am done trying to explain prayer and how it works. I am just seeking to by faith do what God instructs me to do.
- Philippians 4:8—we have to keep our minds focused on what is true, honest, just, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy. The battlefield is in your mind.