

Sunday, November 7, 2021—Colossians 4:3-4 A Door of Utterance

Colossians 4:3

- **Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:**
- Last week we noted that verse 2 was the beginning of a new paragraph. Verse 3 is a continuation of the thought that started in verse 2.
- **Withal praying also for us**—the English word “withal” is a combination of the words “with” and “all.” According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*, the word “[withal](#)” means “with the rest; together with; likewise; at the same time.”
- So, while the Colossians are continuing in prayer and watching therein with thanksgiving in verse 2, Paul is asking that they also pray for him in verse 3. Paul is explicitly asking that the Colossians include him in their prayers.
- Throughout his epistles Paul often asked various churches and individuals to pray for him.
 - Romans 15:30-32
 - Ephesians 6:19
 - Philippians 1:19
 - I Thessalonians 5:25
 - Philemon 22
- **that God would open unto us a door of utterance**—Paul’s prayer request was that God would “open” unto him “a door of utterance.” The word rendered “door,” in verse 3 is used of any opening, entrance, or way/passage into something. It can also be used in either a literal or metaphorical sense to describe an opportunity for doing something.
 - Acts 14:27
 - I Corinthians 16:8-9
 - II Corinthians 2:12-13—if God revealed his will through the opening and closing of doors, like many believe, then here is an example where Paul had a door open to him and chooses not to walk through it and preach Christ’s gospel. Paul’s use of open-door terminology is merely a way of talking about making the most of opportunities for evangelism that arise.

- I Corinthians 9:16-18—Paul already knew what God’s will was. It was for him to preach the gospel.
- II Corinthians 5:18-20—we also know what God’s will is for us. We are called to be “ambassadors for Christ” who make known the “word of reconciliation.” As members of the body of Christ we have all been given the ministry of reconciliation. In our personal lives we also need to be seeking and making the most of the opportunities presented to us to share the gospel.
- **to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds**—Paul requests that the Colossians pray that he would have opportunities opened unto him to “speak the mystery of Christ.” Paul is in prison on account of this message, yet he asks for prayer that he might continue to have opportunity to make it known.
 - Ephesians 3:1-5—Paul is in prison on account of “the mystery of Christ” that had been revealed to him by revelation.
 - Ephesians 6:18-20—Paul asks for prayer that he might boldly continue to preach the message that landed him in jail in the first place.
- Colossians 4:4—please note the following about these verses. First, Paul already knew what God’s will for him was, “to speak the mystery of Christ” in verse 3. Second, he asks the Colossians to pray on his behalf that he would have the courage to seize the opportunities that were presented to him to do so.

Further Thoughts on Prayer

- Colossians 4:3-4—even though Paul already knew God’s will he viewed the prayers of the Colossians on his behalf as somehow having an impact on his situation. Therefore, he asks the Colossians to pray for him as well.
- Romans 15:30-32—Paul views God as being somehow active in his circumstances through the prayers of the Romans.
- II Corinthians 1:8-11—Paul viewed the Corinthians as helping his situation by their prayers.
- Philippians 1:19
- II Thessalonians 3:1
- Philemon 22—once again Paul viewed Philemon’s prayers as impacting his circumstances.

- Ephesians 6:18—God meets the needs of the body of Christ through his word working in the hearts and minds of believers.
 - Colossians 4:2—watching in prayer is not just about allowing prayer to set a watch over your mind like we discussed last Sunday. It is also about watching for the Lord's provision and peace.