

Sunday, November 14, 2021—Colossians 4:5 Walking in Wisdom

Circling Back on Prayer

- Colossians 4:2-3—led us into a conversation about prayer the last couple of weeks.
 - 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 that he chose not to walk through. Paul’s use of open-door terminology is merely a way of talking about making the most of opportunities for evangelism that arise.
 - II Corinthians 1:8-11—Paul viewed the Corinthians as helping his situation by their prayers.
 - Ephesians 6:18—God meets the needs of the body of Christ through His word working in the hearts and minds of believers. 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.
 - II Corinthians 7:5-7, 13—the coming of Titus coupled with his good report provided the provision that Paul needed.
 - We need each other.
 - If you are praying for someone, tell them.

Colossians 4:5

- **Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.**
- The verb “walk” is once again in the imperative mood. Therefore, it is yet another command in this section. It is also in the present tense and the active voice which means believers are to be heading Paul’s command right now.
- The verb means “to make one’s way, progress; to make due use of opportunities.” There are many places where Paul uses the terminology of walking to instruct the saints as how they ought to conduct their lives as members of the Body of Christ.
 - Colossians 1:10, 2:6, 3:7, 4:5—used once in each chapter.
 - Ephesians 4:1, 4:17, 5:2, 8, 15
- Colossians 4:5—Paul wants believers to “walk in wisdom.” This was his prayer for the saints in Colossi in Chapter 1.

- Colossians 1:9-10
- Colossians 3:16
- Colossians 4:5—this wisdom walking that Paul is commanding is to be directed toward “them that are without” or literally “out of doors.” Paul uses this phrase similarly in other places in his epistles:
 - I Corinthians 5:12-13
 - I Thessalonians 4:12
 - I Timothy 3:7
- Those that are “without” are clearly outside the Body of Christ and are therefore not saved. We need to develop some “wisdom” in terms of how we “walk” and present ourselves to the unsaved. What do the unsaved observe about the Lord through your life and conduct?
 - II Corinthians 3:2
 - Ephesians 4:17-22
 - Colossians 3:12-17
- **redeeming the time**—the verb rendered “redeeming” is often used in senses related to justification and salvation as in Galatians 3:13. In these senses it means to mean “to ransom by paying the price.” In other places it has the following more practical meaning, “make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are as it were the purchase money by which we make the time our own.”
- Paul is talking about “redeeming time” in Colossians 4:5.
 - Ephesians 5:14-17—notice again the connection between wisdom and redeeming the time. How are we spending our time? We already know the days are evil.
 - II Timothy 3:13
 - If time is our currency here our scarce resource, what are we spending it on?
 - Colossians 3:2

- We need to redeem the time for two reasons: 1) we don't know how much longer God is going to continue offering the world grace and peace, 2) we don't know how long our friends and loved ones have left on this earth.
- Colossians 4:5—we need to “walk in wisdom” i.e., in those ways that adorn the doctrine.