

**Colossians 12**  
**Further Exhortations**  
**Colossians 4:2-6**  
**May 19, 2021**

**Colossians 4:2-4 Paul exhorts us to be busily engaged in prayer, staying vigilant with attendant thanksgiving.**

2. Devote (*προσκαρταρειτε* proskartareite - “be persistent, busily engaged) yourselves to prayer. Keeping alert (*γρηγορουντες* gregorountes) may either be “staying awake” so we are not dropping off to sleep, or staying vigilant in our prayer life. Both ideas are consistent with what is proper. Thanksgiving to God should accompany our prayers and is common in Colossians (1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:17)

3. Paul’s request is that the Colossians at him and Timothy to their prayer list. The content of the prayer is that God would open a door for them to speak the word, in particular the mystery of Christ (Col 1:25-27). This mystery is the Messiah indwelling Gentile believers, placing them on equal spiritual footing with Jewish believers. This is what Paul was imprisoned for (see Acts 21:15-28:16). These prayers were answered, resulting in the whole Praetorian Guard hearing the gospel as well as the Caesar’s household (cf Acts 28:16-31; Phil 1:12-18).

4. When Paul spoke the word he wanted to make it clear to others. He was obligated to do this.

**Colossians 4:5 Paul exhorts us to walk with wisdom around unbelievers, which amounts to taking advantage of the opportunities to share the gospel with them.**

5. Conduct is from the Greek word for “walk” (*περιπατειτε* peripateite) and refers to how we live our Christian life. Wisdom is skill in living. Outsiders refers to unbelievers. Christians are to make the most of (“buy up”) the opportunity. The word “opportunity” is from a word for time (*καιρος* kairos) and refers to “opportune time.” The Christian is to evaluate when an opportune time is for evangelization of an unbeliever and make use of that time for that purpose.

**Colossians 4:6 Paul exhorts us to speak graciously and season our conversations with spiritual wisdom.**

6. This is not a command, but it is an implied command. The Christian’s speech is the best reflection of what is inside of him/her. Since we have received God’s grace, our speech should always be with grace. The word “grace” (*χαριτι* chariti) sometimes means “unmerited favor,” but here means “gracious, attractive, winsome, even charming.” In this way our speech is attractive to people, especially unbelievers. It should also be seasoned with salt, referring to making the conversation tasty by including spiritual wisdom that dips below the surface of the daily drivel. This will enliven people to ask a question. You should know how to respond, being prepared with a gracious, interesting answer.