

4:2-4:6 Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

Read 4:2-4:6

1. This passage is Paul's final exhortation to the church. He begins by instructing them to be continually or "devoted to" prayer.

a. Why is it appropriate that he ends with this? (Hint: think about how he started the letter).

b. If God knows everything already—including what people need and what is best for them—why should we pray? What is pray really about?

2. In v. 2, after he tells the Colossians to be devoted to prayer, Paul highlights two ways to do this. What are they?

a. What does it mean to be watchful?

b. The Bible often connects the words "watch" or "be alert" with "pray" in important situations (Mk. 14:38; Mt 26:11). This is especially true when it comes to living as people of the light at the end of this dark age (1 Thess 5:6; Eph 6:18; Rev 3:3). In light of this, what does Paul mean by being "watchful" in prayer?

c. How does gratitude reshape our prayers?

3. Next Paul asks that they pray for them. What does he ask them to pray for (vv. 3-4)?

a. What does Paul's request teach us about how we should pray for each other, and especially our spiritual leaders?

4. In vv. 5-6, Paul connects prayer with our relationships with those outside the church. His main idea is that conduct ourselves wisely.

a. In v. 6, he gives us an example of how we do this. What is it?

b. The expression “salty speech” was a figure of speech that referred to winsome talk. One commentator illustrated it by saying that it is the kind of speech that elicits a thirst for listening.

Prayer Prompts

Take some time to pray through each point. Don't rush it. Leave space for silence and for people to pray.

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

- Spend some time thanking the Lord for the various blessings that He has provided. Some examples:
 - Salvation: hope, joy, peace, etc.
 - Spiritual family/community (support, love)
 - Family and friends
 - Provision
- Being watchful means paying attention to what God is doing or what is happening around you and praying for it. Take some time to pray for significant people in your life (spouse, children, family, co-workers) and situations.
- We are called to be devoted to prayer. Pray that the church, your group, and you personally would be more faithful to enter into this calling.

Pray for us also . . .

- Pray for your leaders (pastors, elders, community group leaders).
 - For opportunities to share Christ and serve
 - For the ability to share Christ clearly and boldly
- Pray the same thing for yourselves.

Walk in wisdom with gracious and winsome speech so that you know how to answer

- Pray for the wisdom to know to how to conduct yourself in a way that those who do not know Christ around you see Him in you.
- Pray for the grace and wisdom to know how to speak in such a way as to whet people's appetite to listen to what God has to say through you.

- Pray for the patience and sensitivity to be willing to listen to others, hear where they are coming from, and be able to answer their questions and speak to their situation while faithfully representing the truth.