

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-36 “Prayers For Effective Witness”

06/07/2026

COL 4:2-4 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in [your prayers] with thanksgiving.

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”

COL 4:5-6 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Although these verses are not part of Paul’s prayer, they carry his request for boldness and clarity as it relates to the “witness” of the Believers. Those on the “outside” need for the Word of the Gospel to be made clear to them.

Bringing people to the grace of salvation is not restricted to Church services or Evangelistic meetings.

IF Paul needed prayer to make this clear... WE need it as much!

COL 2:5-6 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

- Walk... – Peripateo – to walk about / have this lifestyle – Just as Paul did not limit his message to meeting halls, or to his prayer-time... so the Believer also must make their witness a matter of daily life
- In wisdom... – Believers cannot depend upon their own thinking and speech to witness... they need:
 - Open doors... – We don’t choose... God does... – Let the Lord open the door for you to speak / witness

- Boldness... – “Free words” – We don’t want to let intimidation limit what and how we speak
- Clarity in speaking... – We want the “right words” – how THEY need to hear it... so they can receive it...

Toward outsiders... – “Those not belonging to your society” – We need to live / share our testimony before the other Believers in our “group” ... that’s good...

BUT we need also to live that same manner before the “world”

Vs6) Let your speech always be gracious... –

Our words should be full of the message of “grace” – not judgmental or condemning... that’s NOT how Jesus presented the Gospel... It’s not how we received the Gospel... Paul even calls it, “The Gospel of Grace”

seasoned with salt - to say what is appropriate w/o offense on your part – I cannot change “how they receive the words” – they may be offended by the message of salvation in “NO other name” (the “skandal” of the cross) – but I must not be “Offensive”

SO THAT you may know how you ought to answer each person. –

- How you ought to answer... To answer or return answer which ought to be done with discretion –

Often it is not just one answer, but a line of discussion that leads to the place of an open heart to the Gospel...

- Each person – Every person needs to “hear it” in the best way they can “receive it” – The question we must face is, “What are the best words” that will make it clear to THIS person...

Paul knew his own prayers were essential... BUT he needed others to join with him... EVEN THOUGH they may not know where he was nor what exactly he needed to say...

PREACHERS NEED PRAYER! ...

BELIEVERS NEED PRAYER!