

## Colossians 4:2-18 // Questions

1. What might it practically look like for me to be devoted to prayer?

What could I cut out of my life in order to make time for prayer?\

What hinders me from praying?

2. How does the 'time' we live in shape both the way we pray and the way we speak with unbelievers?

Note how Paul makes a reference to time both in his word about prayer and in about living wisely i.e. "watchfulness" (a word which usually occurs in the NT when either Jesus' return or spiritual danger is in view (cf. Matthew 25:13; 26:41; Acts 20:31 'be alert') and "making the most of every opportunity," or in other translations "redeeming the time".

3. For you personally, how would your words change toward outsiders if they have been affected by the 'time' we live in, and then marinated in grace and seasoned with salt before being spoken? Would they be more gracious? Would they have more gospel flavour (content)? Would we take more time to listen better so that our answers clarify Christ rather than obscure him?

4. Paul speaks of those 'outside' the church. How comfortable are we with such insider/outsider language?

5. What lesson is there for pastors (and perhaps all Christians) in the words Paul uses to describe Tychicus (4:7) and Epaphras (4:12).