



PART 11: NEW LIFE IN THE WORLD

Sermon Notes

Text: Colossians 4:2-6

Intro:

Colossians 3:17

How does our faith apply to our interactions with “outsiders”?

Paul invites us to pray as he prays and work as he works

1. Watchful Prayer (v. 2-4)

1 Thessalonians 5:6

The rhythm of prayer: Pray, watch, thank...then walk through open doors.

Prayer is most powerful when we ask with a willingness to be part of the answer.

2. Wise Action (v. 5)

“Wisdom” refers to God’s creation and redemptive power in the world, and it is personified in Jesus.

Lead leads us to have a strategy for life, which prepares us to make the most of every opportunity.

“The foolish person has no strategy for life and misses the opportunities to live for God in an evil environment” – NIV Study Bible

3. Salty Speech (v. 6)

Rabbinic teaching associated the metaphor of salt with wisdom.

Salt is purifying, so our speech should be clean and wholesome. Salt is a flavouring agent, so our speech should add value to the conversation.

Acts. 4:20 - Peter and John merely witnessed to what they had “seen and heard.” They did not talk about things they did not understand.

When you pray for opportunities and walk in wisdom, God will build you a platform of opportunity from which you can represent Jesus in influential ways.

1 Peter 3:15

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. How much interaction do you have with non-Christians? Do you think you have a healthy balance between having Christian community and also having non-Christian connections? Do you find it hard or easy to share your faith with non-Christians?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. This passage is about staying “awake” and “sober” to spiritual realities. Pastor Dave said on Sunday that there are a lot of “drunk Christians” in the world today. What do you think he meant by that? What worldly influences are hindering Christian sobriety? How do you stay “awake” and “sober”?
2. Read Colossians 4:5, and see the NIV Study Bible quote under the second point in the notes. Do you have a “strategy for life” that helps you make the most of every opportunity around outsiders?
3. Read Ephesians 4:29. What does this say about our speech? Do you ever hear unhelpful talk in the church? What would be more helpful?

Application:

1. What “open door” of opportunity do you need to walk through this week?

Prayer:

1. Pray for opportunities to represent Jesus to “outsiders”
2. Other Requests
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