

Christian's Conduct In The World

Colossians

- Paul never met them . . .
 - Viewed them as partners in the gospel,
2:1-2, 5
- Paul never met us . . .

I. Pray Without Ceasing, 2

Continue earnestly

- Attach oneself to, persist in something; persevere; busy oneself with, be busily engaged in, devoted to
- People are easily distracted – resolve to pray daily . . . then slack . . .
 - Lk.11:1-13
 - Lk.18:1-8

With vigilance

- Watch in prayer – stay awake
 - **Ro.12:12**, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer
 - **Ep.6:18**, praying **always** with **all** prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end, with **all** perseverance and supplication for **all** the saints

With vigilance

- Watch in prayer – stay awake
- Implies danger
 - 1 Pt.5:8, Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour
 - Mt.26:41, Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak

With vigilance

- Watch in prayer – stay awake
- Implies danger
- Implies concern
 - 1 Co.16:13, Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

With thanks

- For chains?? Ph.1:12-
- Thanks is part of each ep
- Why do we thank God?
- 1 Sm.1:27-28, Hannah

Scripture
Son
Salvation

“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness”

With thanksgiving

- The threefold progression –

Continue
praying

Watch
(for God's answer)

Give
thanks

I. Pray Without Ceasing, 2

II. Preach Without Constraint, 3

In prayer (2) we speak to God . . .
In the Word (3) God speaks to us

- Paul: “pray also for us”
 - To open his prison door...? No!
 - Ph.1:12-14
- Pray for door of opportunity “for the word”
. . . even in prison
 - Opportunity to preach mystery of Christ
 - That he will use opportunities rightly

I. Pray Without Ceasing, 2

II. Preach Without Constraint, 3

III. Preach Without Confusion, 4

Make manifest (clear) v.4

- Acts 28:30-31

Paul wants God to help him do the very thing that caused his arrest

As he ought to speak

- To preach good message in bad way . . .
- Ac.28 – did not rail / complain about his mistreatment

What does Paul want? Ep.6:19-20

I. Pray Without Ceasing, 2

II. Preach Without Constraint, 3

III. Preach Without Confusion, 4

IV. Walk Without Carelessness, 5

◆ Walk: conduct

○ Synonym: live (3:7)

▪ Only two ways to walk (live): 1 Jn.1:6-7

◆ Wisdom: 2:3

○ Both the Colossians and Paul oppose secular ideas and religious error

◆ Outsiders: non-Christians, 1 Th.4:9-12

○ Mt.10¹⁶ Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Walk ... Wisdom ... Outsiders

- Christians were slandered ...
 - **Atheists** (no visible god)
 - **Unpatriotic** (burned no incense to king)
 - **Immoral** (met behind closed doors)
- Worldly people judge us by our conduct
- Worldly people may ignore Bible ... but they read us

Walk ... Wisdom ... Outsiders

- How to refute false charges? Daily conduct
- Dn.6:...5, Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”

“Behold how they love each other, and, in spite of all we have said about them, even love us and treat us with kindness, returning good for evil” – Aristides to Hadrian

Walk ... Wisdom ... Outsiders

- How to refute false charges? Daily conduct

1 Pt.4¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone* suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

Ac.2¹³ others mocking said, "They are full of new wine"

Walk ... Wisdom ... Outsiders

- How to refute false charges? Daily conduct

1 Pt.4

It matters what people think of us

Ac.2

Reputation of gospel at stake

Judge God by our walk / words

2 Sm.12:14, However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.

Take it seriously

“It is never worthwhile to argue about the religion that you think too little of to practice. If you are not loyal to the church, you certainly will have little success in converting others. If the wife who is an indifferent Christian wonders why she has never been able to convert her husband, she will not have to look far for the answer. Sometimes people cannot hear what we say for seeing what we do”

Redeeming the time

Make the most of every opportunity

Snatch it up like a bargain

- Our actions: people are watching
- Our words: people are listening

I. Pray Without Ceasing, 2

II. Preach Without Constraint, 3

III. Preach Without Confusion, 4

IV. Walk Without Carelessness, 5

V. Speak Without Compromise, 6

Always [Col.1:3; 4:12; 4:6]

- If proper speech becomes our habit, we don't have to worry about improper language slipping out...
- Mt.12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Always [Col.1:3; 4:12; 4:6]

- If proper speech becomes our habit, we don't have to worry about improper language slipping out...
- Mt.12:36-37, accountable for every word...
- Ja.1:26; 3:6-7, 8-11, a mixture...
 - Mixture of graceful and evil words proves we are corrupt.

Always [Col.1:3; 4:12; 4:6]

Grace (gracious)

- Let your conversation always be winsome
- Non-Christians: of witty / clever remarks
- NT: speech that results from and is based on God's grace
 - Negative: 1 Pt.2:23
 - Positive: Ep.4:15, truth in love

Always [Col.1:3; 4:12; 4:6]

Seasoned with salt

- Well known expression of ancients
- Adds flavor. Mt.5:13-16
- Preserves words from corruption
- Ep.4²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Always [Col.1:3; 4:12; 4:6]

Purpose: know how to answer...

- Wisdom says right thing, at right time, to right person
- 1 Pt.3:15, But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.
- Purpose: NOT to win argument, but person

Always [Col.1:3; 4:12; 4:6]

Purpose: know how to answer...

- Wisdom says right thing, at right time, to right person
- 1 Pt.3:15, our purpose...
- Prov.26:4-5
 - Do not lower yourself to his level.
(Jd.9)
 - Answer him as his folly deserves.
(Jn.8:7)

Summary (Col.4:6)

Speech – **WHAT** – right word – 2:8; Ep.4:15

Always – **WHEN** – way of life – ‘salt of earth’

Grace – **HOW** – not abusive; truth in love –
Lk.4:22; Ep.4:29

Salt – **WHY** – ¹preserve; ²flavor

Euphemism

- Dictionary records the generally accepted meanings (usages) – cannot change facts
- Col.4:6 requires concern for our words (cf. 1 Co.9:22)
- Ex.20:7, profane; to misuse name of God; treat it as common; vanity, worthless

Common euphemisms

dern; darn

gad; egad

gosh

golly

good grief

doggone

gee; jees

heck

confound

my God, Lord have

mercy...