

**Lesson Fifteen**  
**Colossians 4:2-6**  
*Witnesses for Jesus*

As we conclude the book of Colossians, it would be a mistake to think that all that remains in Paul's letter are some bits and pieces of his farewell. Nothing could be further from the truth. The valuable insights that comprise the closing verses of this book directly connect us to the doctrines contained in the previous chapters. Paul's exhortations that are to the new man in Christ plainly show us how to behave with one another. We will now see that he urges us to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ.

**Day One – Through our Prayers**  
**Read Colossians 4:2-4**

1. Paul began this epistle to the Colossians with the encouragement that he was in constant prayer for them. He closes his letter by requesting that they do the same for him and for those who were evangelizing with him. What key elements of prayer does Paul emphasize in these verses?

2. Most Christians pray, even if infrequently, but Paul called for a greater commitment from believers. What do you learn from the following verses that support his request?

Luke 18:1-8

Acts 1:14

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

a. In what ways do these verses challenge your priorities regarding prayer?

3. How does Jesus exhort us regarding prayer in Matthew 26:41?

a. Do you think that He is referring to a spiritual watchfulness or a physical wakefulness? Explain.

b. How would either of these affect your prayer time?

4. What have you learned thus far that might help you to *continue earnestly in prayer*?

5. It is easy to become discouraged when we are praying about difficult situations. What mindset is to be adopted by believers according to Philippians 4:6 and Romans 12:12?

a. How will practicing these principles affect your prayers?

## **Day Two – Through our Prayers**

**Read Colossians 4:2-4**

1. There are many worthy things to pray for, but our brothers and sisters in Christ are to have a large share of our intercessory prayers. How is this concept expressed in Ephesians 6:18-20?

2. According to the following verses, in what ways can we specifically pray for one another?

Philippians 1:9-11

Colossians 1:9-11

James 5:13-16

3. In Colossians 4:2-4, Paul asked the Colossians to participate in his ministry by praying that he would be an effective teacher and evangelist. Why do you think that prayer is so critical for ministry both here at home and on the mission field?

4. In order to have a significant prayer life you must plan for it. Resolve right now to make today the day that marks your decision to get serious about prayer with these few simple steps.

Set a specific time for prayer.

Select a specific place in your home where you will pray and intercede.

Use an inexpensive notebook as a prayer journal and make a list of specific church leaders and any others for whom you will consistently pray for and intercede on their behalf.

a. Share with your group how you have put these suggestions into practice.

*“When asked of the secret of his successful ministry, Charles Spurgeon replied, ‘my people pray for me.’”*

**Day Three – Through our Actions**  
**Read Colossians 4:5**

1. Actions always speak louder than words. When believers consistently live their faith, the world will be drawn to Christ. With that in mind, how does verse 5 say that we should conduct ourselves?

2. There are times when it seems that we just can't reach the unsaved people in our lives. This is when walking in wisdom becomes an essential witnessing tool. According to the following verses, what is required of us in order to exemplify this in our lives?

Proverbs 2:10-11

Micah 6:8

Ephesians 5:2

Ephesians 5:8

3. The opposite of being wise is behaving foolishly. In what ways have you seen Christians push non-believers away from faith in Christ by acting foolishly?

4. The antidote to folly is wisdom. What are some of the actions that characterize those who are walking wisely?

Philippians 2:14-16a

James 3:17

1 Peter 2:11-12a

5. Based on the scriptures that you have read thus far in questions 2 and 4, what changes are necessary in your life?

a. Use this opportunity to journal a prayer that reflects your desire to live in a way that honors God.

#### **Day Four – Through our Time**

##### **Read Colossians 4:5**

1. We never know what tomorrow may bring and that alone should cause us to take seriously Paul's exhortation in Colossians 4:5 to redeem the time. What do you learn about the urgency of the situation from Ephesians 5:15-16?

2. The phrase *redeem the time* means to buy up the opportunity. By what means are we able to do this?

Psalm 90:12

Romans 13:11-14

Ephesians 5:17-18

3. People are more aware of what we do than what we say. The activities of daily life and work provide many opportunities to give a life witness of Christ. In what practical ways can you influence people for Him?

*“Preach the gospel every day; if necessary, use words.”* Francis of Assisi

