



Read Colossians 4:2-6.

Be Devoted (verse 2):

The NIV translates Paul's command to us as "devote yourself to prayer." Other translations could be: persist with prayer, remain with prayer, or be diligent with prayer. Of all the things that we are "devoted to" in our lives today, can we truly say that we are "devoted to" prayer? Paul even increases the challenge by throwing in two more descriptors: in our "devotion," be watchful (on alert, awake) and be thankful. Wow, I wish that I could claim daily victory in that charge!

- What things are you actually devoted to currently? (Perhaps look at your calendar and your checkbook to determine - I know, it hurts a little!)
- Do you feel that your prayer life is one of watchfulness and thankfulness? Or is it mostly a one-sided conversation with God?

Be Wise (verse 5):

Paul asks us to be "wise in the way that we act toward outsiders":

"Make the most of every opportunity." Literally this means, "buying up the opportunity." How much do you invest in opportunities with people around you, particularly those who are outside of the Christian faith? Do you even notice the opportunities that are around you each and every day?

"Let your conversations be always full of grace, seasoned with salt." How are your current conversations "full of grace and seasoned with salt"? How could you improve in these areas?

Finally, **"so that you may know how to answer everyone."** Wow, this feels like a tall order! In another passage, Paul instructs us to always be ready with an answer...with the hope of our faith. How in the world can we be ready to answer every question that could be asked of us by someone outside our faith? Well, I do not believe that Paul is telling us that we need to know every possible answer, but I do believe that he is instructing us to be ready to engage in any conversation about our faith. With grace and salt, we should be able to engage in a respectful and hopeful conversation.

How prepared are you for these kind of conversations? If not, what steps could you take to grow in this area?

I hope that you feel as challenged as I do from this passage. If you have any questions about any of this, then please feel free to call one of our pastors or staff. God bless you during the Christmas season!

Todd