



GCBC Sermon Application & Discussion Guide (for individuals, families, small groups, etc.)

Date: 4/25/21

Text and Title: Colossians 4:3-6 - "Open Doors & a Godly Walk"

What to do right after the service to help "the Word dwell more richly," within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, "How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?" Or "what about God in the message encouraged you?"
2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don't let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share
[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today's text:

1. In our passage, starting in 4:2, the Apostle Paul asks for prayer for himself and his co-workers ("us"), from prison. Starting in verse 3, what are the things that he asks prayer for?

Even though Paul is no longer in prison – but is in the presence of the Lord! – what are the applicable principles from verse 3-4?

What cues can we take from Paul for how we should ask for prayer in our evangelism? See also Acts 4:31; 9:27-28; 13:46; 14:3; 19:8; Ephesians 6:19-20; 1 Thess 2:2
2. While we might expect someone in prison to pray for their release, Paul prays for "open doors" to proclaim the gospel. We can often become discouraged in our evangelism. What are some of the major factors that contribute to your discouragement or hesitance in the area of sharing the gospel with others? Share that with someone else who will pray for you.
3. Prayer is an important part of our evangelism (v.3). What could a lack of prayer in our evangelism tell us about our heart for evangelism? Why is it important – like Paul did – to pray for the lost? (hint: who alone is able to change hearts?) See Acts 11:18 & Acts 16:14
4. In Psalm 2:1-3 we were reminded of the rebellion in the world against God – in Colossians 4:5-6 Paul urges wise and winsome witness that commends the gospel to this unbelieving world. Why does Paul insert a note of urgency with the phrase "making the best use of the time" (See Psalm 2:12)?
5. Colossians 4:6 says Christians need to be ready to answer each person, and that our speech needs to be wise, gracious, tasteful and beneficial ("seasoned with salt"). While you won't know every answer to every person's question, having a firm grasp on the gospel message is essential (see also 1 Peter 3:15). Can you write our or explain a simple gospel message? What must be included?
6. PRAY! Pray for the Lord to open doors. Get others to pray for you as well.