

### The Study

As Paul moves to wrap up the letter, he gives several short words of instruction on living the Christian life.

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**Vs. 2-4** • Paul urges the Colossians to be devoted to and persevere *in* prayer. They must stay alert to danger and centered in thanksgiving as they pray.

He asks them specifically to pray for him, that though he's under arrest, the Gospel won't be hindered. He asks them to pray that he can preach a clear word.

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**V. 5** • Using a commercial term (redeem) Paul calls the Colossians (and by implication, us) to make the most of every opportunity to demonstrate the power of the Gospel to the lost.

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**V. 6** • After asking them to pray for him that he can preach plainly, he urges them toward speech that is attractive, winsome; appealing to the lost to come to faith in Jesus.

### The Discussion

The two main subjects here are prayer and speech. But Paul centers both on a priority to see the lost won to faith in Jesus.

A potential opening discussion might be on evangelism and your group members sharing their thoughts on how it is best conducted.

Who is responsible for evangelism?

**Ponder Point:** Would you agree or disagree with the proposition that a commitment to share the Gospel with others is proportional to a conviction that no one can be saved apart from Christ.

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Honestly: How is your prayer life, or maybe better – How is prayer in your life? Would you say you are devoted to and persevere in it?

What does Paul mean when he calls us to be “vigilant” in prayer?

What role does prayer play in evangelism & mission?

How specifically does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for him? Why do you think Paul asked that he be able to speak *plainly* (manifest)?

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What are some common “time-wasters?” What are *your* personal time bandits?

What role does our example play in evangelism? Example has ALWAYS been necessary, but why does it have an even greater potential to commend The Gospel to the lost now?

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What does it mean for our speech to be “with grace, seasoned with salt?”

What role does speech have in winning the lost to faith in Christ?

What, if anything, about your speech most troubles you?