

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
Talking to God and Man – Colossians 4:2-6 (SB 03.12.2022)

## COLOSSIANS

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

The focus of today's passage of Scripture is our words. You'll spend roughly 1/5th of your life talking. Perhaps that's why the Bible has so much to say about this topic. There are literally hundreds of verses in the Bible that talk about the tongue. The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom regarding our speech. So is the book of James. The Bible itself begins with God speaking into the void of nothingness to create the heavens and the earth. He didn't just think about what He wanted to create. He said, 'Let there be light...' Jesus is described in John's gospel as 'the Word who was made flesh.' We think that our words are no big deal. They're just words. But our words are much more powerful than we think. I remember reading once that for every word in Adolph Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*, 125 Jews lost their lives. Knowing how powerful our words are, what is the best use for them? That's what today's scripture is all about. Let's get into our study...

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Daniel's sermon this week?
2. Can you be a Christian without praying? Explain?
3. When you begin a new adventure or new way of life, what is it that keeps you from turning back?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 4:2-4

Sharing Jesus is not optional for followers of Christ. We can find our motivation in what Christ has done for us and what He desires to do in and through our lives to reach a lost world. When it comes to being a gospel-sharing people, we must commit to praying for God to open doors for us to make the gospel known to our lost friends and family members and to every nation.

1. How would you describe your prayer life? (e.g., intense, lukewarm, sporadic, frustrating. . .)
2. In your opinion, what does it mean to be devoted to prayer? Explain?
3. What specific opportunity did Paul pray for in verse 3? At what cost?
4. Why might we be hesitant to pray this prayer?
5. Talk about specific answers to prayer? How have they encouraged you?
6. Talk about specific answers to prayer—that where not what you hoped for? How did that encourage or discourage you?

Paul asked believers to pray for him, to petition God to give him an opportunity to preach the message—the good news of salvation in Christ. Paul wanted to continue to proclaim the mystery of the Messiah. God's once-hidden purpose—to include Gentiles in His family of faith—was now an open intention. Although Paul may have had in mind opportunities to tell the good news in prison, or he could have meant his release from prison so that he could resume spreading the gospel. This was the commission or mandate Christ had given him; in this sense, Paul was required to speak.

## **BREAKTHROUGH!** in 2022

1. What is Paul's second petition in verse 4? What does this request tell us about how we should share the gospel?
2. Why is it important that we be able to clearly articulate the gospel to nonbelievers?

The word "gospel" literally means "good news." This tells us that there is content in the gospel that must be articulated clearly. If we do not tell people about who God is and how He sent Jesus as the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins, we have not shared the gospel (no matter what good things we have shared). Many Christians feel ill-equipped to share the gospel, but God invites us to pray for clarity and boldness in sharing the good news about Jesus

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 4:5-6**

Having discussed a door of opportunity in ministry, Paul turned his thoughts to wise conduct. The verb used, which is translated "be wise in the way you act," occurs frequently to identify proper conduct. Generally, translators use some form of the word "walk." Wisdom provides a proper environment for the Christian's walk. At the beginning of the epistle, Paul prayed for the Colossians to know wisdom; here he prayed for them to live it. The phrase making the most comes from a verb meaning "to buy up," as if finding a bargain. Here it conveys the idea of making the most of one's time spent with unbelievers. Wisdom was necessary because of their Christian testimony. The "ones outside" needed examples of God's wisdom. Paul's concern was the non-Christians' response to the gospel and the attitude of Christians toward them. Divine wisdom results in a positive witness.

1. Who are the outsiders in verse 5? How should we act toward them?
2. Why is it so important that we seek to live godly lives?
3. What does it mean to conduct your selves with wisdom?
4. How can you make the most of every opportunity? Give examples...
5. What are some "salty" (tasteful) comments you've used or have heard to steer a conversation to Christ?
6. What is your fear about sharing Christ? What is your joy about sharing Christ?

George Mueller was a missionary from a century ago who devoted himself to prayer. He carried around a list of five personal friends who didn't know the Lord in his pocket and prayed for them every day. After five years, one of them came to Christ. Ten years later, two more were saved. After twenty-five years, the fourth friend came to Christ. He kept praying for the last friend for fifty-two years, then he died. The fifth friend came to know Jesus a few months afterward. That's what devoted prayer looks like.

7. What can we learn from George Muller in regard to prayer?

### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Pastor Daniel gave us three ways to express our prayer. Pray continually. Paul says we are to devote ourselves to it. We aren't called to dabble in prayer or fiddle with it. We are told to immerse ourselves in it. Ten different times, the New Testament tells us to devote ourselves to something. Of the ten, four speak of those times talk about prayer. Someone who is devoted is dedicated and persistent. They don't easily quit, or give in, or become discouraged. Pray watchfully. The word 'watchful' is the same word that was used in Paul's day to describe a night-watchman who stood guard over a city. In the daytime, danger can be spotted from a distance, but the night-watchman must be hyper-vigilant. That's when most attacks come. When we pray, we are entering into a spiritual battle. That's why we must always be on high alert and watchful. Pray thankfully. Gratitude is the third characteristic that ought to mark our prayers. I've found that giving thanks is a great way to start your prayers off. Instead of rushing into His presence with the list of things you want Him to fix and**

**BREAKTHROUGH! in 2022**

**change, start by giving Him thanks. It will change the rest of your prayer time.**

1. How would our community be different if we all shared Paul's drive to share the gospel?
2. Make a list of 5 names of friends and family, who need to come to know Jesus and begin to pray for their salvation.
3. Pray for one another for open doors and open hearts to receive the Gospel! What door has the Lord opened for you?

**PRAYER – Pray that the gospel of Christ would compel you to live on mission for God in all circumstances. Ask God to give you grace and wisdom in your encounters with “outsiders” over the next week. Pray that in those encounters, God would give you influence as well as the words to share. Divide up into pairs or small groups of 3-4 people. Spend a few minutes sharing about the lost people you currently have relationships with. Pray for each of these people by name and for the opportunity to develop these relationships further. Ask God to help us overcome our fears of sharing the gospel.**

*“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8*