

Colossians 4:2-6

- The light we bear inside of us must also be the light that shines outside of us.
 - Luke 8:16
- The one who _____ all things to himself (Col. 1:20) has invited us to enjoy and participate in that reconciliation.
 - The Christ who _____ must be the Christ we _____.

The First Imperative (Command)

- “_____ steadfastly in prayer...”
 - **Exam Question #1:** To Whom is Paul Talking?

 - It is a request to make _____ a gravitational _____ of one’s faith life.
- “...being watchful in it...”
 - **Exam Question #2:** What does Paul want the Colossians to watch out for?

 - “Already, not Yet”
 - We are already beneath Christ’s supremacy as ruler of the Kingdom of God wherein we are called citizens, but we have not yet seen the full effects of that come into play.
 - Our lives cannot be the same after we realize that we live in Christ’s kingdom “already.” But we also must acknowledge that since its full effects are “not yet,” we reckon with darkness in our world.
- “...with thanksgiving.”
 - When you are thankful, you are anchored in the _____, and when you are anchored in the light, the darkness can’t overcome it.
 - Thankfulness serves as a primary _____ against the attack of false teaching.

Three Prayer Requests:

- *The first prayer request* (v. 2) is that the light within themselves would remain _____.
 - In essence, pray that Christ would _____ the lives of the believers.
- In *the second prayer request* (v. 3), Paul is showing us, by example, that this light that lives within us – this Christ to whom we cling – must also be the light that _____ us – the Christ we _____.
 - “...that God may open to us a door for the word...” (v. 3)

- The one for whom God opens the door is the one _____ whom God plans to _____.
 - "...to declare the mystery of Christ..." (v. 3)
 - Col. 2:2 – the mystery "which is _____" (v. 2)
 - To declare the mystery (which is Christ), is to declare the _____.
 - Col. 1:20
 - "...on account of which I am in prison..." (v. 3)
 - Despite his confinement, Paul knows that there are no prisons that can hold back the illuminating _____ of _____.
 - Paul mentions his imprisonment here "... to illustrate the power of God in opening doors for the gospel even when humans conspire to closet them." – D. J. Moo
 - It is essential to our faith that the Christ who _____ must be the Christ we _____.
- In the third prayer request (v. 4), Paul prays "...that I may make **it** [the mystery of Christ] clear, which is how I ought to speak."
 - If Paul needs to pray for help spreading the Gospel, then _____ need to pray for help spreading the gospel – the mystery (which is) Christ.
 - When we don't pray, we sheath the primary weapon we have been given in the advancement of that mystery.

The Second Imperative (Command)

- Col. 4:5-6
 - Col. 4:5 – "Walk in wisdom toward outsiders making the best use of the time."
 - The way you _____ should match the gospel you _____.
 - Col. 4:6a – "Let your speech always be gracious."
 - When Paul says, "Let your speech always be gracious," he is assuming one vital reality – that you would _____ up
 - _____ is not anti-biblical
 - Col. 4:6b – "seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."
 - **Exam Question #3:** What does Paul mean when he says "seasoned with salt" in this verse?

 - So, we are to be _____ – or gracious – without compromising the foundational elements of our _____ – or salty.
 - The way you stay salty is by staying in the _____.

Colossians 4:7-18

- "...the greetings remind us that we are dealing not with an abstract theological treatise but with a real _____ to real _____." – N. T. Wright
 - By praying continuously and walking in wisdom we testify about the Christ who occupies our lives.