

**Lifestyle Evangelism:
Talking to People About the Lord
Colossians 4:2-6**

INTRODUCTION

By way of review, please remember that Paul is writing to the church in Colossae (ancient city located in modern day Turkey). Because it was on a trade route, it was full of different religious influences. In other words, **Christians were in the minority**, and there were many competing worldviews and religious systems.

Paul has just finished talking about how the gospel affects many of our different relationships. In the passage we just read, he begins to talk about how to relate to outsiders, how to be on mission. He teaches us two actions that we need to take. Neither of them is extraordinary. Both of them are actions that every single one of us can take.

Last Sunday, I mentioned that I wanted to direct our attention to two new year necessities...two emphases that I would like for us to keep in mind this year.

I. _____: talking to the _____ about _____ (4:2-4)

What is Prayer? The simple answer is this: **prayer is talking with God. True prayer is honest, humble and personal.**

A. Prayer _____ hard work (4:2a)

B. Prayer _____ vigilance (4:2b)

C. Prayer _____ thanksgiving (4:2c)

D. Prayer is _____ (4:3-4)

II. _____ evangelism: talking to _____ about the _____ (4:5-6)

A. The ' _____ ' that ' _____ ' (4:5)

The word **“walk”** refers to the believer’s consistent conduct, course of action or manner of living. It is about your lifestyle. If you **The Christian’s conduct becomes the stage that opens the door for evangelism – for sharing Christ...talking to others about the Lord.** How do we know that Paul is dealing with the issue of evangelism at this point? It is clear from two particular issues. **First**, there is a direct connection between verses 2-4 and the verses at hand. In vv. 2-4, Paul had in mind prayer for the purpose of evangelism in his life. Now he has in mind evangelism for the Colossian believers. **Secondly**, we noticed that he mentions a group he calls **“outsiders.”** Rabbis to refer to other religions used the term. Here Paul uses it to refer to **“unbelievers.”**

Colossians 4:5-6 is thematically connected to its preceding passage. In verses 2-4, Paul exhorts to pray for him so that his gospel ministry can continue...while he’s in jail. In Verses 5-6, the subject shifts away from prayer, Paul, and proclamation but the concern for gospel impact remains. Paul shifts the conversation from his personal ministry to the ministry of every believer.

Paul and his companions were commissioned to declare The mystery of Christ. So was every member of the church at Colossae. So is every member of this church. **Every Christian has been called to talk to others about the Lord as opportunity arises. We are to proclaim the good news of salvation from sin by grace through faith in the bloody cross and the empty tomb of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We are not all called to do the same kind of missionary outreach Paul did, but we are all called to be witnesses. But how can ordinary people like the Colossians, like you and me do the extraordinary work of talking to others about the Lord? Colossians 4:5-6 answers that we can all join in the great work of talking to others about the Lord by embracing evangelism as

a way of life. Paul's concept of evangelism is **simple: *the Christian's walk with Christ sets the stage for explaining the gospel to unbelievers.***

How can we develop this 'walk that talks' in our lives?

1. Walk in _____ (4:5a)

Wisdom is connected to and distinguished from knowledge. Knowledge is the impartation of truth. Wisdom is about the appropriation of truth. **Wisdom is the practical application of divine revelation.** To be a faithful Christian, we need to know what Scripture says as well as what Scripture does not say. **Wisdom is living out the teachings of our faith with understanding, discernment, and perspective.** Wisdom is insight for living.

To walk in wisdom is a plea for believers to live integrated, wholesome Christian lives that do not detract from our message. The disconnect between profession of faith and the walk of faith must be minimal. This means that you are consciously applying the truth of the gospel to every portion of life. You are manifesting the supremacy, the sufficiency, the beauty of Christ in your day-to-day actions with others.

2. Seize the _____ (4:5b)

The word translated as "*time*," has nothing to do with chronological time (*that's chronos, while this is kairos*). It means a "*decisive or crucial point*" or a "*critical situation in your life that requires decisive action; a decisive moment.*"

Paul said to seize the moment; not to let it pass by. That's what the believer is to do when through the means of a distinctively Christian life, an unbeliever begins to inquire of the way he lives or why he is different from others or how he can cope with the demands of life. Those are not **compliments**, but divine signals (divine opportunities) to seize the moment for pointing to Jesus Christ.

B. The ' _____ ' that ' _____ ' (4:6)

Your words are being heard. What do I mean by this? Our words have depth to them; they have substance...not empty talk. Our words accomplish a goal...they walk...they have 'legs' to them.

Because a Christian is a new creation in Christ, then what comes from his or her lips should reflect the newness of their life in Christ.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? There are a few things we need to identify again as we conclude our study of these verses. **(I'm indebted to Dr. Phil Newton for what follows)**

- _____ that others are _____ you...and they may be looking for light on Christianity.
- Be _____ to God-ordained opportunities for offering a word of witness.
- _____ your _____.
- Be sensitive to the _____ in your Christian witness – to that person to whom you're talking to about the Lord.