

Walk, Talk and Pray Colossians 4:2-18 Sufficient Series

How many of you watched the Super Bowl last year? – Who won!

A) If I were to ask you to name one of the Stars of the Seahawks – most of you could probably name one

B) QB – **Russell Wilson** – RB **Marshawn Lynch** – DB – Richard Sherman.

C) Those of you who are football fans – could probably do even better than that.

But what if I asked you ever heard of Steven Terrell, L.J. Fort and Terrance Parks

1) Probably not because those guys play on Special teams –

B) They are only in the game – **Field Goals, Punts and Kick offs** – 3-8 plays a game.

C) But you cannot have a Super Bowl caliber football team if you don't have **good special teams players**

1) Guys who sacrifice their bodies to run down the field at full speed, stop a punt, or kickoff return

Special teams Players are a key to a successful football team – **Also a successful Ministry.**

A) As Paul closes out this Letter to Colossians he mentions **9 men** who were his “special teams players”

These were men – that most people today even those who love the Bible – Know little about

A) **Many in the Church have never heard of**

B) But God inspires Paul to mention them in this letter

C) If you have **ever felt insignificant or under appreciated** because what you do for Jesus is behind the scenes

1) I hope you are encouraged today by this list

D) But before we look at some of the names on this list –

1) Notice together – Paul's Final exhortation to the church in Colossae

E) Wraps up this section on Christian living that Began in Chapter 3 by talking about

1) The Believers Walk, Talk and their Prayer Life.

² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those *who are outside*, redeeming the time. ⁶ Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

He starts with Prayer

A) Prayer and worship are perhaps the highest uses of the gift of speech.

W. Wiersbe says that *Prayer is like Air for our soul.*

B) In the natural world we need four things to survive, we need food, water, air, and light.

1) Take any one of those away and the natural world falls apart.

C) In the spiritual world it's the same way, we need food, water, light, and air.

- **The light of the Christian life is Jesus Christ,**
- **Our water is the Living Water that comes from the Holy Spirit.**

D) Our food is **the Word of God**, and our air is prayer.

1) Prayer is like air for our souls- breathing.

But Prayer can be hard at times: (You Want to....)

A) Easy to get distracted – I have had times where I set out to pray – suddenly my mind goes blank

B) I have had times – Set out to pray: Woke up the next morning.

1) Not a good idea to pray – laying down in bed at night.

C) Perhaps you have had your own struggles with Prayer {Focus, Unanswered, Last resort

Here in V. 2 Paul gives us 4 insights into what makes for a Satisfying & Powerful prayer life.

#1 “Continue earnestly in prayer”

A) Earnestly = Steadfast consistent and Devoted.

B) This tells us that there are two things that are going to make for a strong Prayer life.

1) Discipline and consistency. {like working out

C) Prayer cannot be something that we do occasionally.

1) Needs to be constant

We need to find ways to make it constant!

A) Found in my life - things that involve Discipline need a plan:

B) Translates into **Set times**: Morning

1) Set days: - 1 day a month

C) Also Helpful **Prayer list**

1) On my phone: List of people – Ministries

D) Specific things: One word reminder - trigger -

E) Pray in the Moment – thought – Situation – person – a need – Pray: Pray without ceasing –

1) Like Breathing- Praying in the Spirit

Came across a study a few years back. The average American will spend **six months of his life waiting at red lights.**

A) What if we decided that at every red light to pray for people on our list

B) **6 months of your life in prayer**

#2 Our praying must also be Vigilant

A) Vigilant is translated – watchful & alert

B) The phrase “Watch and pray!” is used often in the Bible.

C) In the garden of Gethsemane – Olive press

1) Pressing time – Jesus pulled Peter, James and John aside – watch and pray with me.

D) They fell asleep – 3 TIMES

“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ~ Matthew 26:41

JESUS KNOWS THAT ABOUT EACH OF US

A) Spirit is willing – **Flesh is weak** – COMBAT

B) Vigilant – connected to Battle

1) Soldier or a Watchman being on guard

C) Because we’re in a spiritual battle, we need to stay on high alert at all times – Watch & Pray.

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand ~ Romans 13:11,12

D) The Hour is late: - End times – Wake up

“With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” ~ Ephesians 6:18

So Pray Earnestly – Steadfast – Devotion

#2 Pray with Vigilance

#3 Prayers should be THANKFUL *Being vigilant or watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

A) Gratitude is a stimulus to prayer-

B) Gratitude is born out of a healthy walk with God

1) An appreciation for what he has done for you

C) My kids have no problem asking me for anything 1) Reason is they know that I love them!

D) When a believer really knows that God loves them.

1) God is for them – Same result – not afraid to approach him

E) Blessing – God wants to spend time with me!
Guys we have so much to be THANKFUL FOR!

Personally, I don’t think there’s anything more abhorrent than grumpy believers.

A) Grumpy critical believers drive me crazy – We have so much to be THANKFUL FOR!

B) If you are drawing a blank right now - thankful for what?

1) Go home today – make a list: Starting with the **REALITY – GOING TO HEAVEN!!!**

C) You were going to HELL! – Believer – We are going to Heaven!

Finally, our praying ought to be purposeful:

- A) Too often our prayers are vague and general.
- B) I think one of the reasons for our vagueness in prayer is because we are ignorant of God's specific will
- C) Which is why I think it is important to study the **prayers of the Bible** –

“The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth.” Richard Trench archbishop of Dublin

- D) Study the Prayers of the Bible: Paul and Jesus
Give us insight into God's will

Richard Trench archbishop of Dublin, said it perfectly: “Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness.”

- A) Now when it came to Purpose – Paul had a specific thing on his heart – He wanted Prayer for

v.3,4 praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

- B) The proclamation of the Gospel is empowered by prayer.

C) A visitor at **Spurgeon's Church in London** was asked by Pastor Spurgeon {5,000 member church
1) “Would you like to see the powerhouse of this ministry?” BASEMENT – 150 People praying

- D) Is it any wonder that God blessed Spurgeon's preaching of the Word?

1) Sometimes people say to me “*Well, the least I can do is to pray for you.*”

- E) The *most* important thing you can do for Calvary Vista is to pray!

What was Paul asking praying for? In Prison

- A) Get me out of here? – NO

B) Pray for an open Door! – Preach gospel – **Palace guard**

C) Pray for open doors!!!! Why we exist

- 1) **Upreach – Exaltation** – God's glory – Responding to His love and Grace - EXCELLENCE

D) **Inreach = Edification:** Building up the body – Discipleship – (time to study)

1) **Outreach= Evangelism** – See beyond our own four walls - Open doors – Missions & Local

E) Purpose of Shadowridge: 4 miles

1) Pastor Brian – Praying to impact – Part of our mission(Building a base – a core) 20 new families

Pray for open doors: Here and Shadowridge

A) Pray for Holy Spirit to draw people / OPEN DOORS

B) You can play a part – You look for Open hearts –

1) Praying for open hearts - invite – **Change a person's eternal destiny**

C) Pray for Powerful Preaching

D) Now Because Paul's heart was so geared toward outreach

1) He was always considering those outside the faith

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Focus on our Walk and talk as believers

A) # 1. **Be wise.** *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.*

B) Redeeming the time = Making the most of the opportunity.

C) Attitude with unbelievers? Disdain or compassion?

D) Bother ? or heart Break? - Pray for a burden

E) Walk in Wisdom: You might be the only Bible someone ever reads – Read your life!

We ALSO need to be wise in how we talk – Our speech *6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

#2 Be Gracious

A) Grace is getting what we don't deserve

B) Being gracious in our speech is talking to someone in a way that is with a kindness they don't deserve

C) **Seasoned with Salt** - Flavor enhancing –

D) Is what I am about to say going to enhance this conversation. – Add Flavor

In Luke 4:22, People said about Jesus “**they spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.**”

A) There was an attractiveness to Jesus because of the way that he spoke to people – Gracious words

Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ~ Ephesians 4:29

B) Our speech is supposed to “minister grace unto the hearers”

C) When we don't the Holy Spirit is grieved!

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. T-H-I-N-K

T – is it true?

H – is it helpful?

I – is it inspiring?

N – is it necessary?

K – is it kind?

Nothing left to say - Good. Be quiet!”

A) Salt also makes people thirsty – Our talk / our attitudes – should make people thirsty for Jesus Christ

B) Bible calls us Ambassadors – Great title:

1) An Ambassador is someone who is a representative of His King and Country in a foreign land

That is you and me – Our King Jesus – not Home

Aa) Well Paul ends this epistle by mentioning a group of men who did just that –

A) They did a great job of representing and serving **Jesus THEIR KING in this world**

B) Many people didn't even know who they were – But God did – and preserves their names in the pages of Scripture.

C) Don't have time to go over each one but will mention a few

1st is Tychicus The Man with a Servant's Heart

V.7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸ I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

A) Tychicus means “**fortuitous,**” or “**fortunate.**” he ministered with Paul for many years.

B) He is mentioned five times in the New Testament Starting in the book of Acts

1) In Acts Chapter 20 Paul is in Ephesus near the end of his 3rd Missionary trip

C) He Committed himself to travel with Paul – Tough terrain. - Shipwrecks {Faithful didn't bail

The last recorded thing that Tychicus did for Paul was to take this Epistle, the Book of Colossians & the Epistle to Philemon & the Epistle to the Ephesians, & deliver them to their destinations.

A) Now again, we could hear that & think, that is a nice thing but no big deal. 1,000 miles

B) To get from Rome to Colossae, Tychicus had to **cross Italy on foot**, sail across the Adriatic Sea, traverse Greece on foot,

1) **Sail across the Aegean Sea**, to the coast of Asia Minor, where he still faced a journey of almost a hundred miles on foot to get to Colossae.

C) And yet **Tychicus did it for his love of Paul** and his love for the Church and his Love for God !!!

1) Steady determined – Faithful servant

D) There are those of you here: That is you – you are steady and faithful in your service –

1) Behind the scenes

Now In the scope of the overall ministry of the Church it was a little thing, but think about this

A) The letters that Tychicus delivered outlasted the Roman Empire.

B) They outlasted even the churches they were delivered to, and they have made it all the way to us here in Vista where they remain a blessing to us.

C) The life of Tychicus teaches us that there is greatness in the smallest things that are done for Jesus.

1) *Do not despise the days of little things*, those little things could ultimately have a huge impact.

V.10 Mark – The man with the surprising Future

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. *These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.*

A) Mark was the cousin to Barnabas – he joined Paul and Barnabas on their 1st missionary journey – mid way change of heart – went home

B) This bothered Paul – he looked at Mark as being a Flake

1) When it came time for Barnabas and Paul to go out on their 2nd missionary Journey – Barnabas – *Son of encouragement* - Give Mark a 2nd chance

C) But Paul was not into that at all.

1) The whole matter turned into a dispute between Paul & Barnabas – that led to their splitting up.

D) Paul went out with Silas and Barnabas went somewhere else with Mark

Mark rebounded and Proved himself with Barnabas and ended up ministering with Peter

A) Peter was no stranger to failure (Denial) & Peter Knew first hand about 2nd Chances

B) Now the cool thing about Mark's story is that his relationship with Paul was eventually restored

1) In Philemon v.24 Paul names Mark among his fellow workers

C) And in 2 Timothy 4:11 *Paul tells Timothy to "pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service."*

D) Paul told the Colossians that if Mark came to them, they were to obey his instructions and welcome him.

1) They were not to shun him because of his previous failure.

Now If the story ended there it would really be great, but it doesn't.

A) Mark continued on in the ministry and was used by the Spirit to do what only three other men in history were called to do, write down an account of the life of Jesus, the Gospel of Mark.

B) The great lesson of Mark's life is that God is the God of the 2nd chance – He heals and Restores

1) His life was a testimony to God's ability to use failures -

C) Maybe you have had some failures in life or in ministry –

1) Mark's life is a testimony that you can be used again and God still has a place for you on his team

After Mark comes Jesus also called Justus – The man with the Strong Commitment

A) Nothing is known of Jesus who is called Justus apart from this verse.

B) But according to this verse Justus, Mark and Aristarchus were the only fellow workers that Paul had who were Jews – part of the circumcision (Jewish)

C) The lack of response from his fellow Jews must have grieved Paul's heart.

The fact that Justus was willing to leave his people to identify w/ Paul demonstrates his strong commitment.

A) He was willing to take a stand alongside Paul for Jesus Christ no matter what the cost.

B) We learn from Justus – what an encouragement it can be to just be there or just around – His Presence was a comfort to Paul

C) Sometimes the best thing you can do is to just be there! no words? – just your presence

next is Epaphras: He was a man who had a zeal for the body of Christ and committed himself to being a prayer Warrior.

¹² Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you

A) Some of you – Maybe the only thing you can do is pray! – THAT IS MIGHTY!!!!

B) GOD SEES AND HEARS

Then He mentions Nymphas V.15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house.

A) Nymphas is the Man with the gift of Hospitality a person who is mentioned nowhere else in Scripture.

B) He is mentioned simply because he allowed a Bible study to take place in his house

C) That should be a great encouragement to all of you who are hosting Home Groups

1) All this guy does is open up his house and he gets his name mentioned in the Bible

Closing Comments

¹⁶ Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

¹⁸ This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

Finally Archippus – The man in need of Encouragement : He is also mentioned in Philemon v2 – as a Fellow Soldier of Christ

A) Here takes a minute to just encourage him to be faithful to his calling

“Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

B) That is how I want to end our study here in Colossians – to encourage you – take heed....

C) You have a ministry: You have a SPHERE

1) Work – family – kids -

D) You have a place – in the body of Christ {church

E) Some visible: Lead a group –

1) Others – Special teams – behind the scene -

Paul’s special teams Players –

A) No one has written any books about these guys

B) But they were still guys who were used by God – Guys who made impacts

C) Guys who did the little things and God took notice of their hearts / their commitment – their Zeal.

You can fit into that same Category: Being a Beloved Brother / Faithful Servant and Fellow Minister –

A) Open your house – Be committed to Pray – Be a faithful Friend

B) Using your gifts and talents to bless the Body

C) MY CHARGE TO YOU - “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

- YOUR GIFTS
- YOUR SPHERE
- BE FAITHFUL

D) There was a time – I wanted to be great - Faithful

Hebrew 6:10 *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister*