

## Colossians 4:2-18

### Pray, Walk, Talk

Last week we noted how practical the Bible is - Paul began Ch.3 in the Heavens

A) But he ended chapter 3 here on earth - talking about how the gospel - God's word is designed to direct the most important relationships in our lives

B) Husband Wives - Parents Kids -

C) Also speaks into the everyday aspects of work - the Employer/ Employee relationships

Paul wraps up this section on Christian living that Began in Chapter 3 by talking about

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

B) Then he will spend the last part of chapter 4 mentioning the names of some people - who were the behind the scenes people.

C) In the church world - So often the attention gets placed on the out-front people

1) Those who are on the platform

D) But any Church leader will tell you - that the heartbeat of the church is those behind the scenes

E) If you have ever felt like one of those behind people - you will love this chapter -

1) God sees - Writes their name in his book!

<sup>2</sup> Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

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

Paul 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, light and air,  
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

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

C) Also Helpful Prayer list

1) Keep On my phone: List of people – Ministries

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

1) Like Breathing- Praying in the Spirit

E) Talking to Jesus in a back and forth conversation.

#2 Our praying must also be Vigilant

A) Vigilant is translated – watchful & alert

B) Interesting: We get our word Vigilante from this word – Vigilant – connected to Battle

1) Soldier or a Watchman being on guard

2)The phrase “Watch and pray!” is used often together 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) Because we're in a spiritual battle, we need to stay on high alert at all times

1)Vigilant to Watch & Pray.

**#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 –

E)Same result – not afraid to approach him

**In Luke 12- Jesus is talking to his disciples about not worrying about their provision**

A)Same way God takes care of the birds and clothes the flowers of the field - takes care of you

B)Then he makes this statement Luke 12:32 -It is the Father's good pleasure to give you to Kingdom!

C)Your Heavenly father takes great pleasure in blessing you - Loves to see your face - surprised

**You get this: Christmas time - Parents what are you most interested in - Your presents**

A)Or seeing the kids and grandkid's reaction to what you got them - priceless

B)If you say - nope all about me - See Pastor Jesse

C)We get great pleasure in blessing our kids - providing..

**So our prayer life is to be marked by thanksgiving - knowing our father loves us, for us, loves to bless us**

A)Personally I don't think there is anything more abhorrent than grumpy Christians

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

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

1)Go home tonight – make a list: -

D)Start with the **REALITY – GOING TO HEAVEN!!!**

1)You were going to HELL! – Believer – Turn to the person – We are going to Heaven!

**Prayer life marked by being Earnest, Vigilant - thankful and finally 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** – {inspired insight into his heart

**“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

**“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness.”**

Richard Trench archbishop of Dublin

A)Now when it came to Purpose – Paul had a specific thing on his heart – He wanted Prayer for V3-4

**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 PP 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 CV 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 the gospel – **Palace guard**

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

**Now Because Paul's heart was so geared toward outreach**

A) 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?

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

D) 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 -**

**Salt was used in Bible times to enhance the Flavor**

A) Speech that enhances others - builds them up instead of tearing them down

**Proverbs 10:11: "The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life."**

B) When we listen to the words of someone who is wise it's like taking a long drink from a fresh spring on a hot summer day.

C) A fountain of life!

**Salt was used as a healing agent**

**Proverbs 16:24: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."**

A) Honey was both a luxury and a medicine in ancient Israel.

B) When we talk tenderly with others, our words become priceless & provide healing to broken hearts.

1) **Proverbs 12:18 The words of the wise promote healing**

**So Speech that brings healing to situations - conflicts**

A) Blessed at the peace makers

**Proverbs 25:11 "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."**

**Solomon is trying to paint the picture of something that is elegant.**

A) This might have been a centerpiece or a decorative motif on one of his tables in the palace –

B) **Golden apples in a silver bowl**

1) But his goal is to liken it to something beautiful, something luxurious, something very tasteful.

C) **Aptly spoken – a timely word! –**

1) That is beautiful – I needed to hear that!

**Salt was also used as a Preservative**

A)Speech that preserves the truth - preserves righteousness

B)Standing up and speaking up for the right things

As we wrap up this book and chapter tonight - Paul is going to mention the names of 9 individuals

A)Nine men that the Lord choose to have their names included in the Bible

B)Nine men that most people have never heard of - guys behind the scene

C)Paul's special teams players -

1)Football - Special teams - guys who only get in the game for Kickoffs, Punts -

D)Only in the game 2-8 times a game - But their roles are Vital

Some of you - Special teams players - behind the scenes stuff in the church

A)Many people don't see what you do - they don't know your names - BUT GOD DOES - HE SEES

B)Each one of these individuals teaches us something

1<sup>st</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, <sup>9</sup> with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

Tychicus means "fortuitous," or "fortunate." he ministered with Paul for many years.

A)He is mentioned five times in the NT. Starting in the book of Acts

B)In Acts ch. 20 Paul is in Ephesus near the end of his 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, sail across the Aegean Sea, 1)to the coast of Asia Minor, where he still faced a journey of almost a 100 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,

1)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.

#2 on Paul's List Verse 9 is Onesimus -

A) Onesimus is the man with the sinful past. - He was a runaway slave whose return to his master was the occasion for the book of Philemon.

B) Ran away - Ripped off - went to Rome - Trouble Jail - Paul - Saved

1) Paul sends him back - receive him as a brother & whatever he has done however ripped off - **CHARGE THAT TO MY ACCOUNT**

C) Although Onesimus was a runaway slave, Paul describes him as our faithful and beloved brother.

1) When a person comes to faith in Christ, the **past is no longer an issue.**

*“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Cor. 5:17).*

**D) Paul tells the Colossians that the man who left Colossae as a runaway slave now returns as one of your number.**

1) He was to be treated as a member of the church.

E) Paul shows his regard for him by having him, along with Tychicus, **inform** the Colossians **about Paul’s whole situation**

1) **Onesimus was a testimony to the power of God to transform a life.**

**#3 Aristarchus: V.10 The Man with a Sympathetic Heart**

A) Aristarchus we are told in v.11 was a Jewish believer - though like many Jews of the Diaspora, he had a Greek name.

**B) According to Acts 20:4 He was a native of Thessalonica**

1) Aristarchus first appeared during Paul’s three-year ministry at Ephesus.

**C) He was seized by the rioting mob, who recognized him as one of Paul’s companions (Acts 19:29).**

1) He accompanied Paul on his return trip to Jerusalem and on his voyage to Rome (Acts 27:4).

D) As Paul writes Colossians, **Aristarchus is still beside the apostle.**

**That he chose to make Paul’s lifestyle his own speaks of his sympathetic, caring heart.**

A) **He gave up his own freedom to minister to Paul’s needs.**

**B) Any leader would be enriched to have a faithful Aristarchus at his side through all his trials.**

1) The Lord’s work would not be done if it were not for people like Aristarchus.

**C) Aristarchus life teaches us that God takes note of those who are able to endure difficulty remain faithful**

**#4 V.10 Mark: The man with the surprising Future**

**<sup>10</sup> Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), <sup>11</sup> 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 **1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey** – mid way thru change of heart – went home

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

1) **2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey** Barney want to give Mark a **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 firsthand about **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Tim 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,**

A) Mark continued on in the ministry and was used by the Spirit to do what only **three other men in history**



**B) The great lesson of Mark's life is that God is the God of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 that God still has a place for you on his team –

**After Mark comes #5 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 He was just around –**

**1) 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 #6 Epaphras: He was a man who had a zeal for the body of Christ and committed himself to being a prayer Warrior.**

**<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.**

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

**B) GOD SEES AND HEARS**

**<sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you**

**After Epaphras is #7 Luke – The man with the specialized Talent**

**A) Luke was Paul's personal physician, as well as his close friend. - P**

**B) He was a Gentile believer who traveled frequently with Paul on his missionary voyages.**

**1) Paul beaten and hardship - a doc was helpful ☺**

**C) Like Paul, he was an educated, cultured man,**

1) as evidenced by the literary quality of his Greek in his gospel and the book of Acts.

**D) He used his specialized Talent not for his own gain but for the furtherance of the Gospel.**

1) Luke teaches us that God has given each of us gifts, talents and abilities that go beyond taking care of our own Physical needs

**E) Do you have a specialized talent? How can you use it to build the Kingdom**

**1) Money - Support ministry**

**Then He mentions #8 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 - HOW COOL!**

**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

**V.16 WE COME TO PAUL'S Closing Comments**

**<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."**

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

**Finally #9 Archippus – The man in need of Encouragement : He is also mentioned in Philemon v2 – as a Fellow Solider 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) Sometimes even the most faithful need encouragement

1) Ministry - you often don't see the results

C) It is easy to wonder - is this even making a difference

1) Every now and then - Email - card - thanks Lord

D) Paul is led to encourage Archippus

**Pastor Rob you skipped Demas - YES YOU ARE RIGHT**

A) I skipped him on Purpose: Demas is the stain on the group- The man with the Sad Future

**He had made a substantial commitment to the Lord's work, and was with Paul in both his imprisonments.**

A) Unlike Paul's other companions, however, his future was sad.

B) Paul records the tragedy of Demas's desertion in 2 Timothy 4:9-10: **“Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”**

C) The pull of the world system eventually became irresistible to Demas, and he abandoned both Paul and the ministry.

D) The life of Demas reminds us of our need to be on Guard and to stay accountable

**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

**Hebrews 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.**