

*Paul's Letter to the*

# Colossians



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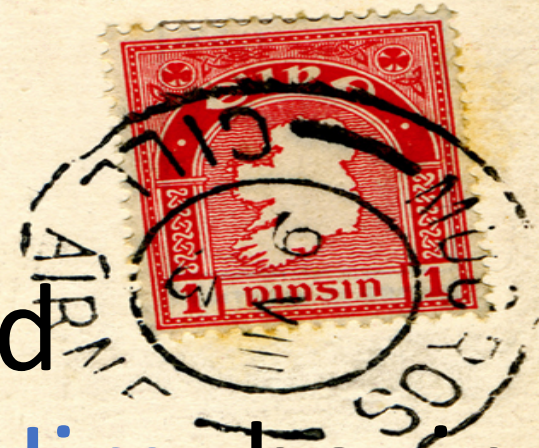
# Colossians 1:9-10

“...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”



# Colossians 2:6-7

“...Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude....”



# The Apostle Paul's Instructions



- In light of what God has done:
  - How do we please the Lord?
  - What does *walking worthy* look like in real-life?

# The Apostle Paul's Instructions

1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)
2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)



# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)

- Prayer

- *To wish toward*: express your desires
- Spiros Zodhiates: “When we pray to God, we wish that He would intervene to permit something in our lives that we feel is proper and right.”



# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)

- Prayer

- *To wish toward*: express your desires
  - Grounded in faith (cf. James 5:14-15)
  - Focused by God's will (Matt. 6:9-10; 1 John 5:13-15)



# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)



## A. Devote yourselves

- *Persist, be intently engaged in, attend to constantly; be diligent; persevere*
- Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18-20; cf. 1 Thess. 5:17
- Example: Acts 1:14; 2:42



# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)



## B. Keeping alert

- Mental & spiritual vigilance/watchfulness
  - Against temptation? (Matt. 26:41)
  - For Christ's return? (Mark 13:33-37)
  - Aware: needs & God's will? (Eph. 6:18)

# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)

## C. With thanksgiving

- Repeated theme (1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15-17)
- What does thanksgiving demonstrate?
  - Humility, dependence, understanding, recognition, submission to God's will (cf. Rom. 1:21; 1 Thess. 5:17-18)



# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)



## D. Personal request

- Opportunities to share the gospel (3)
  - With clarity (4; boldness - Eph. 6:18-20)
- This was his focus
  - Acts 20:22-24; 21:10-14; 23:11

# 1. Persevere in Prayer (4:2-4)

- What should we pray for?
  - Open doors to share the gospel w/ clarity
  - Understand God's will (1:9-12; 4:12)
    - Unceasingly (1:9)
    - Laboring earnestly (4:12)



## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)

### A. Your Conduct

- Walk – behavior, manner of life (1:9-10; 2:6-7; 3:5-7)
  - In / by: **love** (Eph. 5:2), **The Spirit** (Gal. 5:16), **the light** (Eph. 5:8; 1 John 1:7), **good works** (Eph. 2:10), **God's ways** (Deut. 8:6)



## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)

### A. Your Conduct

- With wisdom (see 1:9, 28; 2:3, 23; 3:16)
- *Worldview* – God’s ideal of human life
  - Fear the Lord / shun evil (Prov. 3:7)
  - Follow God’s ways (Prov. 2:20-22)
  - Found in Christ (Col. 2:2-3; cf. Prov. 8)



## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)

### A. Your Conduct

- With wisdom toward outsiders
- How do I best conduct myself with non-believers?
  - 'Practice what you preach'?
  - I am a walking billboard for Jesus  
(Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Tim. 6:3-4; Titus 2)



## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)

- How do I respond?
  - When my food order is wrong?
  - When I get the wrong change?
- Am I prepared to share the gospel?
  - Ants and spiders
  - *Looking* for opportunities?





## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)

### A. Your Conduct

- Making the most of the opportunity
  - *Don't let any time go to waste*
  - Look for chances to witness / influence
    - The days are evil (Eph. 5:16)



## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)

### B. Your Conversation

- Always seasoned with grace
  - Consistent, in all situations
  - Appetizing, not unpalatable
  - Pleasant, even when undeserved
- Manner and tone (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15-16)



## 2. Walk in Wisdom (4:5-6)



### B. Your Conversation

- So that you will know how you should respond to each person
  - Aware of / sensitive to each individual
  - With wisdom (5) and clarity (4)
  - Always be ready (1 Peter 3:15)

# The Rest of the Letter?

- There is much to be gleaned
  - People
  - Examples (4:12)
  - Questions
- For another time...



# So What?

- Am I in constant communication with God?
  - Thanksgiving? What wishes / desires?
- Am I conscious of or purposeful in my actions toward unbelievers?
- Is my speech seasoned with grace?



# So What?

- Do I really understand what God has done for me in / through Christ?
  - Am I willing to study and meditate on it?
  - Am I thankful? Do I express it?
- Is my goal to please Him, or for Him to please me? (1:10)



# Ponder:

- Rescued and transferred (1:13)
- You were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death (1:21-22)
- You were dead, but God made you alive with Christ (2:13)

