

**“Devote yourselves  
to prayer”**

**Colossians 4:2-18**

# **“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

## **Colossians 4:2-6**

**2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.**

**4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**

**“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

**Psalm 4:1**

**Answer me when I call to  
you, my righteous God.  
Give me relief from my  
distress; have mercy on me  
and hear my prayer.**

**“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

**Matthew 14:23**

**After he had dismissed them,  
he went up on a mountainside  
by himself to pray. Later that  
night, he was there alone,**

**“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**16** Rejoice always, **17** pray continually, **18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

# **“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

**1 Peter 3:15-16**

**15** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

# **“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

## **Evangelistic guidelines:**

- Pray earnestly**
- Cultivate a sense of urgency**
- Act wisely**
- Be gracious**
- Be lively (seasoned with salt)**
- Be well grounded**



# **“Devote yourselves to prayer”**

- Cultivate networks (and unity)**
- Be ready to accept the consequences of preaching in a hostile world**

**“all the news about me”**

**Colossians 4:7-17**

**7** Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. **8** I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts.

**9** He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here. **10** My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

**11** Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. **12** Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

**13** I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. **14** Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. **15** Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

**16** After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea. **17** Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”

# **“all the news about me”**

## **Paul’s co-workers:**

- **Tychicus: a personal representative**
- **Aristarchus: accompanied Paul on his 3rd missionary journey**
- **Mark**
- **Justus**
- **Epaphras: founded the church in Colosse**

## **(Continued)**

- **Luke**
- **Demas: “fell away”**
- **Nympha: had a house church**
- **Archippus: “fellow soldier”**



**“Grace be with you”**

**Colossians 4:18**

**I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.**

# **“Grace be with you”**

**“The call to remember his chains is not some forlorn plea from a woebegone and disheartened apostle. He does not ask for commiseration. He is glad to suffer for Christ and his bonds are the bonds of the gospel. It is better to regard this call as a note of encouragement for those who may suffer persecution for their faith...”**

**David Garland**

# **“Grace be with you”**

## **Ephesians 2:4-10**

**4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. **6** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

**7** in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

# Applications

- **Pray**
- **Evangelize**
- **Do & Be salt & light**

# Final Thoughts

## Matthew 5:13-16

**13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. **14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

**15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

**16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

# Final Thoughts

## Philippians 4:6-7

**6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.