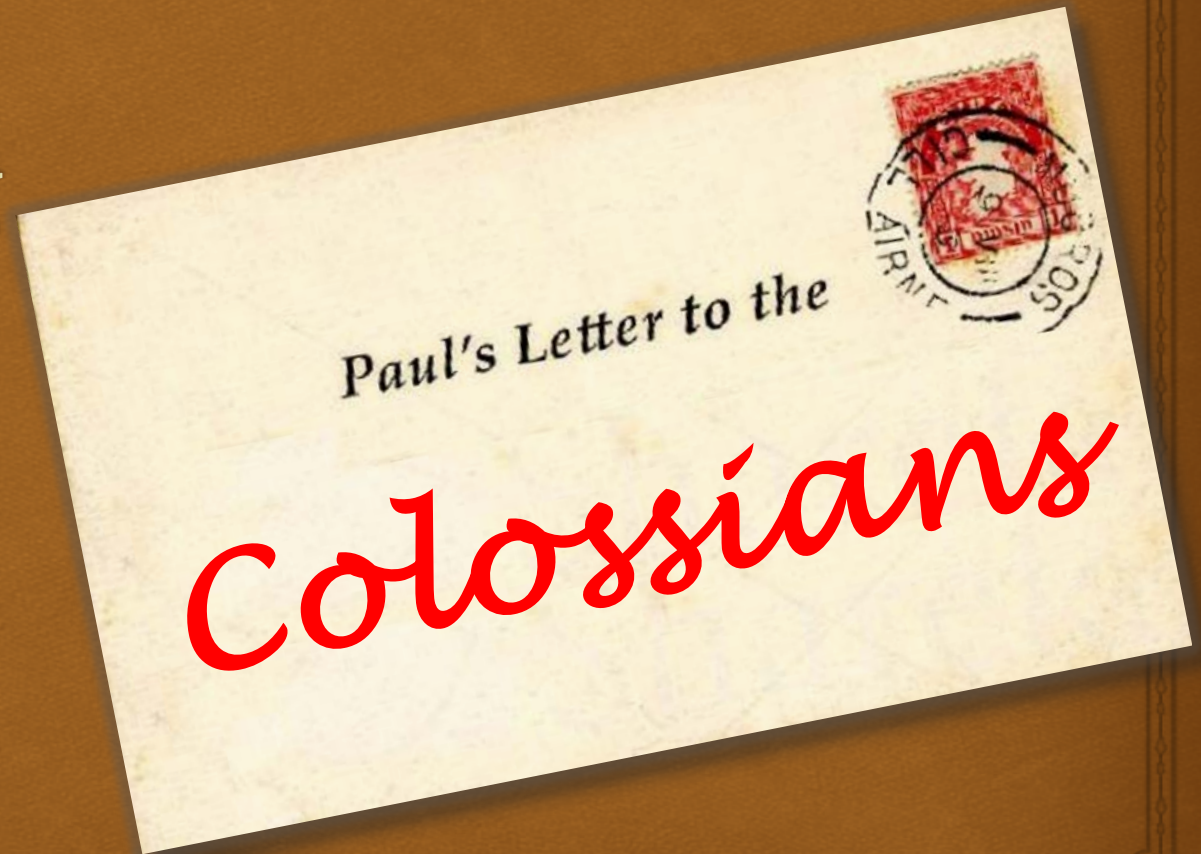
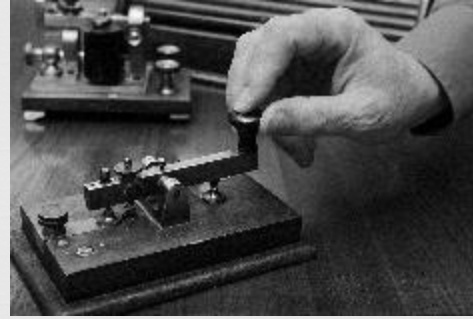


# The Christian's Responsibilities in Communicating with God and Unbelievers



*Colossians 4:2-6*





# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with God

---

☞ How are believers to pray?

☞ With full, continual devotion (4:2a)

**Luke 18:1** Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

**Acts 1:14** These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

**Acts 2:42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with God

---

☞ How are believers to pray?

☞ With full, continual devotion (4:2a)

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** pray without ceasing;

**Ephesians 6:18** With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit...

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with God

---

- ⌘ How are believers to pray?
  - ⌘ With full, continual devotion (4:2a)
  - ⌘ With constant alertness (v2b)

**Ephesians 6:18** With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with God

---

- ⌘ How are believers to pray?
  - ⌘ With full, continual devotion (4:2a)
  - ⌘ With constant alertness (v2b)
  - ⌘ With thanksgiving (v2c)

**Colossians 1:3** We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with God

---

- ⌘ How are believers to pray?
  - ⌘ With full, continual devotion (4:2a)
  - ⌘ With constant alertness (v2b)
  - ⌘ With thanksgiving (v2c)
- ⌘ What are believers to pray for?
  - ⌘ For things and people we know need prayer (v2)
  - ⌘ For those who ask for prayer (v3a)

# Paul's Prayer Request



☞ That God would:

☞ Open up opportunities to share the gospel (v3b)

**Acts 14:27** When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.



# Paul's Prayer Request



☞ That God would:

☞ Open up opportunities to share the gospel (v3b)

☞ Enable Paul to speak the gospel clearly and properly (vv3c-4)

☞ Includes speaking with clarity

☞ Includes speaking under compulsion

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**1 Corinthians 9:16** For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

# Paul's Prayer Request



☞ That God would:

☞ Open up opportunities to share the gospel (v3b)

☞ Enable Paul to speak the gospel clearly and properly (vv3c-4)

☞ Includes speaking with clarity

☞ Includes speaking under compulsion

☞ Includes speaking using a God-ordained method

**1 Corinthians 2:2** For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with Unbelievers

---

- ☞ Live and act in a wise manner (v5a)
  - ☞ Includes having credibility at all levels
  - ☞ Includes not creating needless obstacles that hinder relationships or believing the gospel
  - ☞ Includes understanding the unique needs in approaching each person
  - ☞ Includes living in a way that unbelievers will find attractive and noteworthy

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with Unbelievers

---

- ☞ Live and act in a wise manner (v5a)
- ☞ Make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel (v5b)
- ☞ Speak with grace (v6a)

**Luke 4:22a** And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips

**Luke 6:45** “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with Unbelievers

---

- ☞ Live and act in a wise manner (v5a)
- ☞ Make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel (v5b)
- ☞ Speak with grace (v6a)

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with Unbelievers

---

- ☞ Live and act in a wise manner (v5a)
- ☞ Make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel (v5b)
- ☞ Speak with grace (v6a)
- ☞ Speak as though seasoned with salt (v6b)

**1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

# The Christian's Responsibility in Communicating with Unbelievers

---

- ❧ Live and act in a wise manner (v5a)
- ❧ Make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel (v5b)
- ❧ Speak with grace (v6a)
- ❧ Speak as though seasoned with salt (v6b)
- ❧ Say the right thing to each person (v6c)

**Proverbs 25:11** Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.

# Closing



- ❧ Communicate daily with God in heart attitude and prayer as you should
- ❧ Like Paul, pray for opportunities to faithfully share the gospel
- ❧ Relate to the unbelieving world in a way that honors Christ and makes the gospel attractive