

HOW TO MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. - Colossians 4:2-6

1) PRAY ABOUT IT. (Also see Luke 18:1)

- a) BE WATCHFUL: PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S GOING ON. (Colossians 4:2. Also see Mark 14:32-42, Luke 12:35-48, Acts 1:14, 2:42; 6:4, Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18).
- b) BE THANKFUL: PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT GOD'S DONE. (Colossians 4:2. Also Colossians 1:3, 1:12, 2:7, 3:15, 3:16, 3:17)
- c) BE HUMBLE: ASK GOD TO OPEN DOORS. (Colossians 4:3. Also see Acts 14:26-28, Acts 16:6-10, 2 Corinthians 2:12.)

2) TALK ABOUT IT.

- a) USE YOUR HEAD. (Colossians 4:5. Also see Ephesians 5:15)
- b) TAKE YOUR CHANCES. (Colossians 4:5. Also see Ephesians 5:16).
- c) SPEAK YOUR HEART. (Colossians 4:6. Also see Ephesians 4:29, Mark 9:50, 1 Peter 3:15.)

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Discussion Questions

1. In advancing the gospel, what role is played by prayer? By watchfulness? Thankfulness? Open doors? Closed doors or chains? Wise actions? Opportunism? Graceful talk? Salty talk?
2. Why is thankfulness such a key ingredient in a Christian's life (see Colossians 2:6 and 3:15,17)?
3. What has helped you grow the most in your prayer life? What obstacles to prayer do you feel now?
4. From verses 5-6, what principles do you want to build into your life as you relate to non-believers?