

Welcome. Today's lesson is on Colossians 4:2 thru 6

But first, I wish to follow up on the budget presentation I did a few weeks ago.

If you recall, I spoke of the desire to fill the seats here at the refuge,

Why should I do that, you might ask? God doesn't need my help

Let me remind you that God didn't say to Moses, have a seat here and watch me build the ark.

Slide

Or Noah

Slide

Invite someone

Slide

[James 2:21-23 ESV] 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar?

22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a friend of God.

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[Col 4:2-6 ESV]

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

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Please excuse my lis-dexlea

We are going to start near the end and work our way to the start.

[Col 4:5-6 ESV]

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Let the world know that you are a Christian

[Eph 5:8 ESV] 8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

We should always strive to show the spirit of Christ in all that we interact with everyone, in both speech and action

Story of people going to church, then cussing each other on the drive home?

3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Notice that Paul doesn't ask "please let me out because it's dark, dank and it smells in this prison" he wants to get out to return to spreading the gospel of Christ, the very thing that got him imprisoned

Now to my main point

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Not that thanksgiving

Most people seem to only give (or pray) with thanksgiving when they get something really good, like a bunch of money, or a new car

I sometimes wonder of at these times we are being thankful to God, or we saying to him “thanks for giving us what we deserve or earned”

I think we should be mindful that we should be thankful (and pray with thanksgiving) for everything, face it anything beyond dirt is a gift from God, for that matter he created the dirt also.

From aardvark to zyzzogeton and everything in between is a gift from our father, given from him to us out of his love.

Do you give thanks to the father every morning for letting you wake up to an new glorious day, or for us older folks, giving those thanks after your morning “bathroom” break, how about giving thanks for the fact you woke up before your “bathroom” break

By the way, that Ferrari I showed you a moment ago, that is the very model Ferrari that God wants me to have, the only reason I am saying this, is if anyone here feels they are called to do a special work that God wants done.....

Sometime in the future I will explain the story of how I know God wants me to have a Ferrari

Anyway forget everything I just said about being thankful for things, sure we should pray with thanksgiving for what God provides, and also for what he doesn't

The one thing from God that we should always be thankful for is his gift to us of his son, Jesus so we are able to have a personal relationship with our father through Jesus, so we may be saved by his blood that washed away all our sins

[1Corinthians 15:57 ESV]

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.