**Be Prayerful Watchful and Thankful ~ Colossians 4:2-66**

🡺**Scripture Reading**- Colossians 4:2-6

 **INTRODUCTION**

**Luke 18:10–13** (NLT) “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people - cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to ME, for I am a sinner.’

 **PRAY with Diligence Awareness and Thankfulness ~ 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.

 **1 Peter 5:8** (NLT) Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like

 a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

Two mistakes Christians make in talking about Satan are that we either Joke about him or we Ignore him. HNTC

Believers who pray with Gratitude for God’s Blessing will be less likely to be led astray by the Lures and Lies of the enemy. HNTC

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 **Philippians 1:12–14** (NLT) And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that Everything

 that has happened to me HERE has helped to spread the Good News.

  13 For everyone HERE, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ.

 14 And because of my imprisonment, MOST of the Believers here have gained confidence and boldly

 speak God’s message without fear.

**Paul Prayed for**

* them to be DILIGENT, Alert and Thankful in their prayers
* an OPPORTUNITY to share the gospel
* CLARITY in Proclaiming the gospel

**Acts 28:30–31** (NLT) For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, 31 boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And NO ONE tried to stop him.

 **IMPLICATION**

2 Devote yourselves to Prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Our Persistence is an expression of our Faith that God answers our prayers. LABN

3 And PRAY for us, too, that God may Open a Door for our Message

4 Pray that I may proclaim it Clearly, as I should.

 **Walking and Talking in Wisdom ~ Colossians 4:5-6**

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.

 **1 Corinthians 3:6** (NIV) I Planted the seed, Apollos Watered it, but God made it GROW.

 **TAKE AWAY ??**

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.

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders...

6 Let your conversation be always Full of Grace...

6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know HOW to answer everyone.

**1 Peter 3:15** (NIV) But in your hearts set apart 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...

**Lamentations 3:21–23** (NLT) Yet I still dare to HOPE when I remember this: 22 The Faithful Love of the Lord never ends! His Mercies never cease. 23 Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.