

Title: Colossians: Union with Christ and His Church, Pt 10: “The Grace of Open Doors for Clear and Salty Words” – Colossians 4:2-18

Big Idea: Pray for the grace of open doors for clear and salty words!

Read Colossians 4:2-6.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. Pray for GRACE!

In Colossians 4:2, Paul tells us to “continue steadfastly in prayer.” Read Hebrews 4:16. How would you describe prayer based on this verse? How would you define grace (see 2 Cor. 12:9 for help)?

Read Psalm 50:15. Based on this verse, what is one reason that God allows trouble in our lives? Have you ever experienced that?

To “continue steadfastly” is to not give up praying or lose heart when the answers don’t come right away. What are some reasons that God might delay responding to our prayers?

Paul also says in Colossians 4:2 to pray “with thankfulness.” Read Psalm 116:12-13. Based on this passage, what does it practically look like to express our thankfulness to God?

2. Pray for the grace of OPEN DOORS for CLEAR WORDS!

Read Colossians 4:3-4. When God fills our cup with His grace, it overflows with grace to others! Why do you think God wants us to pray for others, and not just pray for ourselves?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:11. Summarize this verse in your own words.

What are some examples of “closed doors” to sharing the Gospel that you have experienced with others in your own life? Are there really any closed doors when it comes to God’s grace? Why or why not?

How have you seen God used so-called “closed doors” to actually open doors for the Gospel?

Has the Holy Spirit ever given you the right thing to say at the right time in order to make the Gospel clear to someone?

3. Pray for the grace of open doors for SALTY WORDS!

Read Colossians 4:5-6. Salty words are TASTY words (see Psalm 34:8). What are some examples of words that show the GOODNESS and DELIGHT of the Gospel?

4. Pray for EXAMPLES of grace!

Read Colossians 4:7-18. Paul mentions NINE people by name in these verses of greeting. Epaphras gets the most attention (4:12-13) as someone who struggles on behalf of the Colossians in prayer. Who are you struggling and agonizing in prayer for?

There are people from several different regions and cultures in the list of people Paul mentions. Based on Acts 17:26-27, why do we live in the places that we do?

“Next Steps” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - What is a circumstance in your life where you currently feel weak and helpless? Ask God to give you His power at the point of your weakness so you can glorify Him.
- With Others:
 - Spend time praying for our pastors, elders, staff, and missionaries this week. Send emails or text messages to them to let them know you are praying for them.
- On Mission:
 - Reach out to an unbeliever this week to ask how you can pray for them. Follow up with them to let them know you have been praying. Ask God for open doors to share the clear and salty words of the Gospel with them. Invite them to our Patriotic Picnic.