

Context

- 1] The heart of this letter - Jesus is God and we are in Him so, live it! (1:15-3:17)
- 2] Relate to one another – ‘as is fitting in the Lord’ (3:18)
- 3] Conclusion – ‘Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful’ (4:2)
??? The abrupt way he changes from family relationships to prayer (cf 4:2)

Prayer for relationships (2)

- 1] Devote to prayer

Nb lit ‘continue steadfastly’

Cf not stopped praying for you (1:9)

Seek God in prayer for all your relationships

- 2] Watchful

cf watch and pray (Matt 26:41)

nb Watchful – stand firm against the devil (1 Cor 16:13; 1 Pet 5:8)

Be careful of all your relationships

- 3] Thankful

Cf thankful (1:3-8, 12b; 3:15)

Nb for where God has set you in human relations (3:18-4:1)

God’s will (1Thess 5:18)

Be thankful for the opportunity to serve Him in all your relationships

And ... pray for us (3)

- 1] God may open a door for our message

Nb The message (lit ‘word’) cf word of truth (1:5)

Cf door (Acts 14:27; 1 Cor 16:9; 2Cor 2:12))

God is sovereign – He opens doors

- 2] proclaim the mystery of Christ

le Mystery – now disclosed to the saints Christ in you the hope of Glory ((1:26,27)

** JESUS The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a mystery that needs spoken out**

- 3] for which I am in chains

Cf Acts 21:33

I.e. I am weak – dependant completely on Him

Pray for me (4)

- 1] I may proclaim it clearly

Cf Ephesians 6:19-20

Pray for your leaders for God’s opportunities in presenting the Gospel

2] As I should

Cf fearlessly declaring (Eph 6:19)

** Pray for your leaders for God's ability in presenting the Gospel**

For you - to outsiders? (5,6)

1] Act (5)

a) Be wise to outsiders

cf Outsiders (1 Thess 4:12; 1 Tim 3:7)

In proclaiming Christ be wise

b) Make the most

Make the most of every opportunity (Eph 5:3)

Cf failure of self on Sat am, eating a bacon roll, to invite friend & Dad to cafe

In proclaiming Christ be permanently vigilant.

2] Speak (6)

a) Conversation (lit 'your word')

nb Word ie about the Gospel

b) be Gracious (lit in grace)

Conversation (speech) – in love, in faith and in purity

In your speaking, let the grace of Jesus be always evident.

c) Salted

cf Mark 9:50; Ephesians 4:29

d) know how to answer

cf 1 Peter 3:15; Act 8:34-35

Go and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19)

In your speaking of Jesus, let the Holy Spirit carefully guide you.

Main Point *We depend on God completely as we seek to make Christ known*

Key verse *“Pray for us that God may open a door for our message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ for which I am in chains” (3)*

Abbreviations **cf** = 'compared with', **ie** = 'that is', **nb** = 'note well'

Applications - **underlined and asterisked**

'GRACE' application showing God's grace.

'JESUS' application in all Scripture pointing to Jesus