

## Colossians 4:2-18

### *Week 9 - Conversations With God, Outsiders, And Insiders*

? What was the best conversation you had this week?

**Read Out Loud: Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

? What does it look like to be watchful in prayer?

? In your own prayer life, are you better at being watchful or thankful? How can you grow in the area you are weaker?

? In vs. 5 Paul instructs the Colossians to be wise in their interactions with outsiders. How have we seen this command echoed throughout the whole book of Colossians, and how do Paul's instructions help further the gospel?

? How can we be wise and “make the most of every opportunity” as we interact with people who are not believers?

? What does it mean to fill a conversation with grace? How can we practice this in our own lives?

? References to salt in the Bible often mean preserving truth or adding intelligence and instruction to a situation (see Mark 9:50 and Matthew 5:13-16). So, what does Paul mean when he tells the Colossians to season their grace-filled conversations with salt?

? How does Paul's instruction provide insight into the balance between grace and truth in conversations?

? When was a time you had a conversation with someone that was filled with grace but also truth and instruction? Can you think of a time a conversation you had with someone would have benefited from either more grace or "salt"?

**Read Out Loud: Colossians 4:7-18 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup>Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup>I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. <sup>9</sup>He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

<sup>10</sup>My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) <sup>11</sup>Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. <sup>12</sup>Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. <sup>13</sup>I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. <sup>14</sup>Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. <sup>15</sup>Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

<sup>16</sup>After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

<sup>17</sup>Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

<sup>18</sup>I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

? Paul mentions ten different people and two churches in vs. 7-17. What does that say about Paul and his ministry?

? How would mentioning these specific people help Paul relate to the Colossians?

? Looking at the community Paul had around him, what are ways we can encourage each other and spread the gospel through our relationships?

#### **Questions For Discussion And Accountability**

? Is there a tough conversation you need to have this week that can benefit from being full of grace yet seasoned with salt?

? What's one way you can encourage someone in your community this week?