Colossians 4.2-6

"Pray, Walk, Talk"

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## v2 ~ The Manner of Prayer

- Three inferences c/prayer from this text
  - 1. "earnest" ~ Prayer is important, "reporting for duty", keeps us anchored
  - 2. "vigilance" ~ Don't be distracted, "doing your duty", basics of our lives
  - 3. "thanksgiving" ~ Guard against discontent, remember what you have

## v3 ~ The Object of Prayer

- "praying also for us" ~ Paul presumes primary prayers are for themselves
  - We all should have prayers that are uppermost in our minds and hearts
    - My prayers are not your prayers / "What has God put on your heart?"
  - What Paul wanted was for God to "open to us a door"
    - But he also reminded them that he was "in chains"
    - v4 ~ He asked their encouragement to speak as he "ought to speak"
- We are to pray for 1) ourselves and for 2) others

## v5 ~ Live Purposefully

- "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside"
  - "What are these people outside of?" / Everything that truly matters
- "redeeming the time"
  - We live in a profligate time / a sensuous time / a self-indulgent time
    - We may presume that we rise above such temptations / "But do we?"
    - But the true test these days is in how we use our time
    - Past cultures worked much harder / How do we use our "free" time
      - "Do our pastimes reflect God's goal and purpose for our lives?"

## v6 ~ Speak Thoughtfully

- Those that are "outside" can be our enemies
- But remember what Paul told Timothy
  - o That "they have been taken captive by Satan to do his will"
  - o One of our life goals should be breaking people out of prison
- "How are we to do this?"
  - Simply by answering their questions / "answer each one"