

sermon notes

August 2, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
“New Habits for the New Self” | **Colossians 4:2–6**

1) Prayer _____ with thanksgiving (4:2)

2) Prayer _____ on evangelism (4:3–4)

3) Conduct _____ by wisdom (4:5)

4) Speech _____ with salt (4:6)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 4:2–6 and assess its broader context. What does Paul emphasize in this passage? How does it connect to the broader themes of Colossians? How does it build on Paul's teaching about the new self (3:1–17) and Christian relationships (3:18–4:1)?

Many scholars consider Colossians 4:2–6 to be the conclusion of the main body of Paul's letter (the remainder of the letter consists of personal greetings and a final benediction). Why does Paul conclude his teaching by emphasizing prayer and witness? Why were these habits important for the church in Colossae? Why do they remain essential for Christians today?

What is the prayer request that Paul gives in 4:3–4? What does an open door for the word look like? What is the mystery of Christ that Paul wants to declare? Is this something that only experts like Paul are supposed to declare?

What does Paul mean by “making the best use of the time” (4:5)? How does this relate to evangelism and living wisely before unbelievers?

GET PERSONAL

What does your prayer life look like? Is it a healthy combination of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication? Do you balance personal and corporate prayer? How do you emphasize thanksgiving and evangelism in prayer? How often do you pray specifically for gospel opportunities?

What does “walking in wisdom toward outsiders” look like for a Christian? How have you demonstrated this in your life? In what situations have you found this difficult? What does gracious speech look like for the Christian? What does ungracious speech look like? Give some clear examples.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How does a Christian learn “how you ought to answer each person” (4:6)? Do you feel confident answering other people’s objections to the Christian faith? How does a Christian grow in that skill? Is it necessary to always defend the Christian faith or answer objections? When is it appropriate to speak out?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Paul specifically mentions outsiders in 4:5. Who are those outsiders? Who are the insiders? Why does he focus on conduct toward outsiders in this verse (and 4:6)? Is this linked to the evangelism focus of 4:3–4? Should our conduct toward outsiders be different from our conduct toward insiders? If not, why not? If so, how?