

Colossians 4:1-6

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I. Introduction.

- A. Prayer is a primary theme throughout Colossians.
- B. Fellowship is another theme.
- C. Being a good witness for Christ is also important in Colossians.

II. Paul prays for an open door for the Word of God and that the Colossians would be witnesses where they are.

A. Tips for witnessing.

1. Buy up every opportunity.
2. Act wisely.
3. Manifest a kindly, gracious spirit.
4. Answer a person's questions.
5. Use the Word.
6. Be clear.

B. A change in the theology of witnessing.

1. All the Israelites were to be a witness to God but they failed. (Exodus 19:3-6, Isaiah 52:5)
2. The believers in the New Testament were a great witnessing brotherhood and the impact they made was so great that historians say it had to have been impossible. (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1)
3. During the Middle Ages, the laity became virtually regarded as having no ministry whatsoever. The laity became non professional and non qualified. This distinction remains to this day.
4. The evangelization of the world is everyone's job - we are not chosen for privilege. We are chosen for service.

C. Why laymen do not witness.

1. There is history against the layman telling him it is not his job.

2. Some do not witness because they compare themselves to others and feel inadequate. Paul did not think of what he was or was not - only that he had been called to deliver the gospel. (Romans 1, Acts 18:2, 2 Corinthians 10:10)

3. It is easy to subtly communicate the idea that there is always more training needed because of the emphasis on training and full maturity. (Colossians 1:28-29, 4:5)

III. Paul's counsel on witnessing. (review)

A. The Word is to come with graciousness, and not just power.

B. Our conversation should not be dull, but taste good.

C. Do not try to fake it.

D. Use the Word. (4:3)

E. Be clear.

Application questions

1. What tip for witnessing stands out to you? Explain.

2. What happened to the commission for all laymen to witness?

3. What are the hindrances to witnessing? Can you think of any others? What is the proper response to those hindrances.
