

**Series:** Colossians - The Supremacy of Christ

**Sermon:** When Outrage meets Salty Grace

**Scripture:** Colossians 4:2-6

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Date:** June 10, 2023

**Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)**

*2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

*3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—*

*4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

*5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

*6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

*Conservatives arguing against same-sex marriage based those arguments in sanctity. But in arguing for the Keystone oil pipeline, they based their case in fairness. Likewise, using almost the same language, liberals argued against the pipeline by saying it violates the sacred order of things, and argued for fairness when supporting same-sex marriage. “Liberals and conservatives may be more alike than previously thought,” the researchers said in *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*. “We demonstrated a near-complete role-reversal [relative to] sanctity-based justifications of moral opinions.” Ted Olsen From <<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/april/moral-relativism-is-dead.html>>*

*We can all agree: America’s cultural atmosphere is highly charged. The air hanging around nearly every conversation—political, racial, sexual, religious, or otherwise—seems infused with kerosene, ready for the smallest spark to burn attempts at civility to the ground. This social climate has been labeled “outrage culture,” and aptly so. Instead of complex people enjoying constructive dialogue, whether face-to-face or online, we’re increasingly more like brute animals defending our territory. It’s like we’re all Gaston—wild-eyed and seething, with a pitchfork in one hand and lighted torch in the other, awaiting the signal to “kill the beast” on the other side. - Ashley Marivittori Gorman <<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/outrage-culture-share-good-news/>>*

**Main Big Idea:** As people who are devoted to prayer and filled with thanksgiving, we live increasingly unique lives in the world, overflowing with wisdom and salty grace.

## **1. Talking to God about people (v. 2-4)**

### **Acts 1:14 (ESV)**

*All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer.*

### **Acts 2:42 (ESV)**

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

### **Acts 6:4 (ESV)**

*But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*

### **Ephesians 5:20 (ESV)**

*Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Philippians 4:6 (ESV)**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

### **Colossians 3:15-17 (ESV)**

*At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

*If outsiders are not merely spiritually sick but actually “dead” in their sin (Eph 2:1ff), then the only thing that will deliver them is a resurrection. If their vision is not merely blurred, but they are actually “blinded” by the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4), then they must receive their sight. Only God can raise the dead or give sight to the blind. We can strive to love outsiders and show mercy to them and build relationships with them and earn a hearing of the gospel. But if God doesn't give new life, then nothing will grow and flourish as a result of our activity. First and foremost, we must pray. Greg Stiekes (<https://seminary.bju.edu/theology-in-3d/pauls-instructions-about-outsiders-part-1/>)*

### **1 Timothy 4:1-4, 8 (ESV)**

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth ... I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling.*

## **2. Talking to people about God. (v. 5-6)**

### **Colossians 1:10 (ESV)**

*Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him.*

### **Colossians 2:6 (ESV)**

*As you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in him.*

### **Matthew 10:16 (ESV)**

*Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*

*In the days of the early church believers were often slandered by outsiders. For example, they were called atheists because they served no visible gods, unpatriotic because they did not burn incense before the image of the emperor, and immoral because, of necessity, they would often meet behind locked doors.*

William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary, Colossians*, p. 182

*In the long run, the reputation of the gospel depends on the conduct of its devotees.*

Hendriksen, p. 182

### **Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)**

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

### **Matthew 10:17-20 (ESV)**

*Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

### **1 Peter 3:14-16 (ESV)**

*Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

Only the Spirit of Christ in you can give you ...

(a) the ability to answer each person as you ought and

(b) empower you to do so with gentleness and respect

**Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)**

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