

Sermon Series: Colossians

Sermon Text: Colossians 4:5-6 Wisdom Toward Outsiders

Walk in wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

In Christ you can walk before and talk to outsiders with wisdom.

1) In Christ you can walk before outsiders with wisdom (v. 5).

- a) Walk Consistently—"walk" is present tense imperative which emphasizes continuous action; consistency does not mean perfection, but wisdom does not use imperfection as an excuse for carelessness or looseness in living
- b) Walk Wisely—"In wisdom" (1:9, "Spiritual w."; 1:28, Paul "teaching every man (Gentiles) with all w."; 2:3, in Christ "are hidden all the treasures of w."; 3:16 "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all w."; contrasted with 2:23, "These have indeed an appearance of w.")
- c) Walk Opportunely—"making the best use of the time" or "redeeming the time"; "to buy up eagerly" (cf. Dan 2:8, "Nebuchadnezzar accuses magicians of trying to "buy up time" with excuses; Eph. 5:16); "time" is *Kairos*, inauguration of the new age/eschaton
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Divine Wisdom or Human Wisdom?
 - ii) How does the reign of Christ direct your life?
 - iii) How are you using your time?

2) In Christ you can talk to outsiders with wisdom (v. 6).

- a) Talk Consistently—"always"
- b) Talk Graciously—"Let your speech always be gracious"; more literally "Let your word always be 'grace'" — God's grace (cf. Eph. 4:29)—not a canon within the canon; main theme of canon
- c) Talk Appealingly—"seasoned with salt"; flavorful seasoning
- d) Talk Insightfully—"that you may know how to answer each person"; answer or respond implies a conversation, perhaps even objections and refutations (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15)
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Are you prepared to present the gospel to your neighbor? How well do you know the gospel? How well do you know your neighbor?
 - ii) Do you communicate the grace of the gospel when you talk to unbelievers? Can you demonstrate the grace of law?
 - iii) Is your speech typically rancorous or appealing (well-informed, informative, compassionate, sincere)?

Doxology: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 1:5b)