

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Colossians 4:2-4
1 Thessalonians 5:17
Philippians 2:14
Habakuk 3:18-19
Psalm 62:11
Matthew 5:43-45
Colossians 1:5-6

August 30, 2026

In today's text, Paul makes some interesting statements about how he assumes the Colossian church is praying. Whether God opens another door for Paul or not, he wants to be clear on how he "ought to speak." Paul says we should speak plainly and understandably.

How clear do you think you are in your speech about Jesus? What could help you be MORE clear?

1. Paul assumes we are going to be praying. - Col 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer...

Throughout church history, you will see things like common prayer, private prayer, and pastoral prayer; prayer is one of the most common phenomena of human life. This does not mean that everyone prays, but sociologically speaking, there seems to be a human instinct for prayer. It is universal, but most don't understand it. The most important part of understanding prayer is the realization of WHO we are pray to—the God we have relationship with.

Christian prayer is personal prayer to a personal God that has revealed Himself in Jesus. Tim Keller defined prayer as a personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God. All human beings have some knowledge of God available to them, but for a Christian, prayer is different because we are responding to specific knowledge of God from the Bible. Paul assumes we will not just be praying, but also growing. Part of our prayers should entail asking that the Gospel continues forward through God's work in us.

What do your prayers typically look like? Are there certain practices or themes?

2. Paul assumes we are being watchful in our thankfulness.

Col 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

When Paul writes the way he does, he intends for us to be watchful and thankful in our prayers because it recenters us in God's goodness. We all have places where life starts to overwhelm us and we can drift. There may be times we lose sight of what God is doing and we lose focus. This is why Paul repeats the Gospel over and over; it is a reminder of God's goodness to us. We want to be actively looking for things to be thankful for, even today.

In Ephesians Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened to see that we have everything we already need. Our thankfulness will teach us to be more like our God! Be watchful for all God is doing and recognize the unbelievable blessing we have already received.

How does your thankfulness currently reflect God's own goodness?

3. Paul assumes that how he (and we speak) is clear. Col 4:4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

The Colossians are new Christians; they are taking their early steps in faith and Paul is asking them to partner with him. He starts by telling them that he is thanking God for them and praying for them...he then says "do the same for me."

How do you partner with others in making Jesus known?

Sometimes we can get caught in wondering if we said something exactly right, but God wants us to speak plainly. Kent Hughes said when Jesus came, God "put the cookies—or the bread of life—on the lowest shelf, where anyone could reach it. And so must I." We speak what we know, and we must be open to those around us hungry to hear the truth.
