**PRAYERFUL ATTITUDES TOWARD PASTORS & OUTSIDERS**

Colossians 4:2-6, 18

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**INTRODUCTION**

In Colossians, a prison letter written from Rome around A.D. 60-65, Paul wrote to encourage the Christians through practical teachings and a show of love for God’s people. Last week, we examined his teachings about proper relationships in the home. Today, we will consider prayerful attitudes toward pastors and outsiders, this latter group consisting of those who remain outside the church.

1. **PAUL DESCRIBES THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD PRAYER.**
2. We must be **committed** to prayer.
3. We must be **aware** of what is happening around us so we can pray well.
4. We ought to be **grateful** for the opportunity to pray for others.

*Paul reminds us that praying for others is not a burden but a privilege. It is a joy to lift up others in prayer and see the positive effects of our prayers. It is also encouraging to see that others are aided by our prayers for them.*

1. **PAUL DESCRIBES THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD PASTORS.**
2. Pray that God will **open** a **door** for the message He gives.
3. Pray that pastors will **plainly** declare the mystery of Christ.
4. Pray that the pastor may make the message **easy** to **understand**.

*All pastors realize the truth that they labor in vain if God does not open the doors of the hearts of the hearers. Pastors need to remind themselves to preach plain and simple messages, not intellectual treatises.*

1. **PAUL DESCRIBES THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD OUTSIDERS.**
2. Be **wise** in the way you act toward outsiders.
3. Make the most of every **opportunity**.
4. Let your communication always be full of **grace** and seasoned with **salt** so you will be ready to answer everyone.

*Paul reminds us to have proper loving attitudes toward those outside the church. If we treat them as people worthy of love and respect, we will be more likely to have a positive impact upon their lives. If not, we will have nothing to offer them.*

**CONCLUSION**

Paul wanted God’s people to have proper attitudes toward prayer, toward pastors, and toward outsiders. If we do not treat our pastor’s well, how can we be expected to treat outsiders well? Our reputation in the community will spread like fire in a rain-starved forest if we fail in either of these areas. We should not only love one another, but also we should love our pastors and those who remain outside the church. If we will practice loving others, perhaps we can see the church become a powerful force in the world once again.

*“Lord, listen to Your children praying,*

*Lord, send Your Spirit in this place;*

*Lord, listen to Your children praying,*

*Send us love, send us power, send us grace.”*