

Discussion Questions for Life Groups

Read Col. 4:2-6, and then review the main points of the sermon outline.

1. **(Prayer - persistent)** Read Col. 4:2b. Share about your prayer life. How could you be more devoted to prayer?

2. **(Prayer – alert & thankful)** Read Col. 4:2 and Eph. 6:11-12. Many of us pray only about things we can obviously see. What should be our practice of prayer when it comes to unseen, spiritual danger? How can we become more alert in prayer? How can we be consistently thankful without setting up some sort of legalistic rule about it?

3. **(Prayer - Opportunities)** Read Col. 4:3-4. Probably we should view these prayers for evangelistic opportunities as encompassing both individual opportunities and corporate opportunities. What role does inviting people to church or to Life Group (to encounter the corporate body) play in spreading the gospel? What role does one-on-one play in spreading the gospel? How does prayer affect either approach? Who do you know that you could invite to the Joshua study starting Jan 28, 2007?

4. **(Prayer/evangelism - Clarity)** Read Col. 4:4. A better translation of this verse would stress the necessity of proclaiming the message of Christ clearly. The leading lexicon says of the word used in this verse: "**one must, one has to**, denoting compulsion of any kind" (BDAG-3). What truth about Christ has impacted you through the Colossians study that you could share with a friend?

5. **(Evangelism by deed)** Read Col. 4:5. The "My Response" section of the *Experiencing Christ Study Guide*, page 104, says, "Write down the opportunities you have to walk with wisdom before those who have yet to set their affections on Jesus. Write down how you can make the most of these opportunities." What did you write?

6. **(Evangelism by word)** Read Col. 4:6. One commentator says of this verse that Christians should give "perceptive answers that have that delicate blend of pungency and graciousness suited to the varying needs of individuals." What do you find to be easy in this respect and what is difficult? Where or with whom could you find an opportunity to share?

Enrichment Study for Life Groups

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| Luke 18:1-8. | Prayer that never surrenders often prevails. |
| Luke 18:9-14 | Prayer from a humble heart before God often prevails. |
| James 5:16b-18 | Prayer from a righteous heart works wonders! |
| 1 Cor. 9:22 | Flexibility in sharing the mystery of Christ. |

Heads-Up for Next Sunday

Brothers in Christ Col. 4:7-18
(Bruce Miller on November 12, 2006)

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