

SERMON NOTES

DECEMBER 27/28, 2014

Being Christ's Witnesses

Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV)
Pastor Rick Thompson

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost. Luke 19:10 (NLT)

Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.
John 17:18 (NLT)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19–20 (NIV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8 (NLT)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:2–6 (NIV)

We are called to be Christ's witnesses

1. We are called to be Christ's witnesses in how we **pray**.

• **Pray devotedly.**
Devote yourselves to prayer... Colossians 4:2a

• **Pray watchfully.**
...being watchful ... Colossians 4:2b

• **Pray thankfully.**
...and thankful. Colossians 4:2c

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.
Romans 1:21 (NIV)

• **Pray purposefully.**

And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Colossians 4:3-4 (NIV)

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:19 (NIV)

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10 (NIV)

2. We are called to be Christ's witnesses in how we **live**.

• **Live wisely.**
Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders... Colossians 4:5a

• **Live boldly.**
...make the most of every opportunity. Colossians 4:5a

3. We are called to be Christ's witnesses in how we **speak**.

• **Speak gracefully.**
Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt... Colossians 4:6a

• **Speak knowledgeably.**
...so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6b

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself—that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, "But those who are right with God will live by faith." Romans 1:17 (NCV)

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others. 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT)

DAILY MEDITATIONS

DECEMBER 27/28, 2014

Memory Verse:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline. Which part of the sermon spoke to you? _____

From the sermon outline, what are some ways we are called to be Christ's witnesses?

Which of these areas comes naturally to you? Which is the most challenging?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Colossians 4:2-4. To what are we to devote ourselves? Why do you think we are to do this? _____

How would being watchful and thankful change the way you pray? _____

For what is Paul asking the Colossians to pray? What do we learn about his circumstances in verse 3? _____

What stands out to you about Paul's prayer and his circumstances? Why? _____

Do you pray for open doors to share your faith? Why or why not? _____

Describe a time when prayer helped you to take your eyes off your circumstances.

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Colossians 4:5. How can you be wise in the way you act toward unbelievers?

Why would unbelievers notice this? _____

Read Ephesians 5:15,16. Why is it important for us to make the most of every opportunity? _____

Does sharing your faith come naturally to you? Why or why not? _____

Read Proverbs 28: and, Hebrews 13:6. How do these verses encourage you to share your faith? _____

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Colossians 4:6. What part of life is Paul talking about in verse 6? _____

What phrases does he use to describe our conversation? _____

What do these phrases mean? _____

How are your conversations full of grace and seasoned with salt? _____

Read 1 Peter 3:15. Are you prepared to give an answer for the hope you have? If not, how can you become prepared? _____

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

How do the following verses teach us to be Christ witnesses?

Philippians 4:6 _____

Mark 9:50 _____

Ecclesiastes 10:12 _____

Matthew 10:16 _____

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____