

## Further Instructions, Col. 4:5-6.

Paul's letter to the Colossian Church was full of encouragement to the believers, to reject and turn away from false teachings and teachers, who are sheep in wolf's skin. **Matt. 7: 15**, [ *You Will Know Them by Their Fruits* ] *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."*

Paul's way of encouraging the believers was to turn their focus to the Lord and His work in each one of the believers. Basically, he told the believers to repent and to turn to the Lord's teachings.

For Paul, the most important thing in life is that he will manifest the hope of glory in his life. For a believer it is the greatest honor to be transformed in to the image of Christ through the working of God's power, **Col.3:10**.

He gave very useful instructions to the Colossian Church that are beneficial for us too.

### Further Instructions

#### Col.4: 2-6,

<sup>2</sup> *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;* <sup>3</sup> *meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the [a]mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,* <sup>4</sup> *that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*

<sup>5</sup> *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.* <sup>6</sup> *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

Paul instructs us that it is God's will that the church should be corporately involved through prayers also for the other churches and for God's workers and ministers. We know that our prayers actually make things happen on earth as it was done in heaven already. This is something that we clearly express in the Lord's prayer in **Mat. 6:10**, ***Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

Also, Jesus taught us. **Mat. 16:19 or Mat. 18:18**, ***And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.***"

This is exactly the meaning of being living stones. Not all of us could be directly involved in church activities, but we shall all be involved through prayer and through manifesting the hope of Glory Christ in us.

## Further Instructions, Col. 4:5-6.

### Walk in Wisdom and Speech

*Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

We are urged to walk in wisdom to those who are outside, to those who don't belong to the body of Christ or God's household. And we should not lose any opportunity to do so.

### Gaining Wisdom.

To be able to "walk in wisdom" - V5, we have to make sure that we know and understand God's word. If we know and understand His word. This is what scripture calls gaining wisdom. Through gaining wisdom, we will be able to explain to others what God's word means.

If any of us lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. *James 1:5.*

**Eccl. 10:12-13**, *the words of a wise man's mouth are gracious. But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; the words of his mouth begin with foolishness, and the end of his talk is raving madness.*

**Prov. 10:14**, *Wise people store up knowledge, but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.*

**Prov. 14:33**, *Wisdom rests in the heart of him who understands, but what is in the heart of fools is made known.*

**Prov. 15:2**, *The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.*

The **wisdom** that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. *James 3:17*

### Walk in Wisdom

But how do we primarily express or manifest it?

Through our speech, that should always be with grace and seasoned with salt.

### Seasoned with Salt

Ever heard of salty language or "gezouten taal"?

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Salty language is rather coarse language. Using all kinds of rough and crude expressions, at times even vulgar. Historically sailors have always used this kind of language to express themselves. Sometimes we call it street language. But this is not what is meant with “seasoned with salt”.

In seasoning, little salt is used to release and enhance the aroma and tastes of other ingredients in food. That is to our delight and savor.

This is what Paul meant, seasoning with a little salt will make our language gracious and pleasing to hear. Especially when we share the word of God, such gracious language would suit very well the message of grace that the gospel in fact is.

Each Believer is a member of Christ’s body, His church. Peter calls us living stones, 1 Peter 2: 5. Both, Paul and Peter stressed that we are involved in building up God’s holy temple. Through His Word that we share with one another the church is build up and together we grow up in to the Head, who is Jesus Christ. Our speech is an attribute that we have received from God to glorify and honor Him. It is also through our speech, conversation or speaking that each one of us could be involved with in building up the church.

Listen to what Jesus said about where speech comes from, **Mat. 12:34**, <sup>34</sup> *Brood<sup>[a]</sup> of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

But we know also that our heart is deceitful. **Mark 7: 20-23**, <sup>20</sup> *And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”*

Yet we have been chosen to be actively involved in building God’s holy temple, the Body of Christ. We can only do this through His grace and the mighty work of the Holy Spirit.

Anything that we bring to church is in fact our spiritual worship and sacrifice.

The OT has always taught that offerings were supposed to be given with salt. **Lev.2:13**, <sup>13</sup> *And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.*

Christ fulfilled these laws.

## Further Instructions, Col. 4:5-6.

### Salt

Salt must be added to every sacrifice:

- **Salt has a purifying influence**, Christ's influence purified the lives of those he contacted, believers are called to be the salt of the earth.
- **Salt is the emblem of incorruption** and **Christ's body saw no corruption (Psalm 16:10)**.
- Salt is also the emblem of Divine grace and Christ's words are always health-giving and wholesome.
- Finally, it is called **'the salt of the covenant'** in verse 13. **The offerer was in a covenant relationship with God and salt was seen as the seal of friendship.** God has made an everlasting covenant of friendship with us.

### The words we chose

So then, our words will express;

- Tolerance, not judgment, **Prov. 12: 18**, *There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.*
- Thankfulness, not complaint, **2 Cor. 2:15**, *we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*
- Kindness, not bitterness, **Proverbs 15:4**, *A wholesome tongue is a tree of life. But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

But how do we allow Christ to season our speech, especially since we know that we have to give an account for every idle word that we speak? **Matt. 12:36-37**, *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

God revealed it a very long time ago to Ezekiel and he tells us in 18:31 that we all need heart surgery! We are all in need of a new heart and a new spirit. Even before Ezekiel, King David recognized and he expressed it in a psalm – 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God".

Once you have your heart right before God, you will find that what is coming out of your mouth is more pleasant, sweeter to the hearer and more healing to the soul.

**Let us pray!!**