

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 4-5, 2003

Gerry Andersen

"Pursuing God in Our World"

Colossians 4:2-6

Colossians 1 grounds the church in truth. Colossians 2 guards the church from error. Colossians 3:1-17 grows the church in relation to God. Colossians 3:18-4:18 grows the church in relation to others.

1. Be prayerful (4:2-4)

a. How to pray (4:2)

- 1) Pray with devotedness: be consistent
- 2) Pray with alertness: be circumspect

b. What to pray (4:3)

- 1) Pray for opportunities: be careful
- 2) Pray for communication: be clear
- 3) Pray for perseverance: be continuing

2. Be prudent (4:5-6)

a. In our conduct in the world (4:5)

- 1) Be wise with our activity
 - We must avoid isolation
 - We must avoid iniquity
 - We must avoid insensitivity

2) Be wise with our opportunity

"Making the most of the opportunity," literally reads in Greek "redeeming the time." However, the word for time (KAIPOS) refers to a period of time, not a point in time. This leads to the accurate translation of "opportunity."

- We must avoid idleness
- We must avoid ineffectiveness

b. In our conversations with the world (4:6)

- 1) Be gracious

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Jesus did not come to judge but to save (John 3:17)

- We must avoid moralism

2) Be interesting

Salt in Colossians 4:6 is used for seasoning, a figure of speech referring to words that are appealing to the hearer.

- We must avoid ritualism

3) Be knowledgeable

Our conversations must not only be opportune with regard to time, they must also be opportune with regard to the person.

- We must avoid decisionism

In order to make the most of the opportunity we must not only have the opportunity but also know what to do with the opportunity. This is best learned on-the-job.