



The Epistle to the Colossians

Col 4:5,6 - Walking in Wisdom and in the Word

• Col 4:5 – “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.”

– First, what is wisdom?

- Let’s begin by comparing the wisdom of the world with the wisdom of the Lord.*

– Paul distinguished the two types of wisdom.

- » 1 Cor 1:20 - Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?*
- » 1 Cor 1:25 - Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
- » 1 Cor 1:30 - But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

– JFB – ‘practical Christian prudence’?

- » 1 Thess 4:13 - That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*

– What is walking in wisdom?

- Walk - to regulate one's life, to conduct oneself*
 - And this is a life not law!*



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- The best example is the cross!
 - » *Eph 4:17 - This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk** not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*
 - » *2 Cor 4:2 - But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not **walking** in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*
 - » *3 John 1:3 - For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou **walk** in the truth.*
- *Who's on the outside (them that are without)?*
 - Unbelievers!
 - » *1 Cor 5:12 - For what have I to do to judge them also **that are without?** do not ye judge them that are within?*
 - What does this *walking in wisdom* look like and how do *those that are without* respond?
- What does *redeeming the time* mean?
 - To best translate it's buying up the opportunity.
 - Sharing the Gospel – how to and not how to?
 - » But conditionally the *redeeming* relates to our *walking in wisdom*



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» *Eph 5:15 - redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

– Is this quid pro quo?

» *Gal 3:13 - Christ has **redeemed** us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),*

– And it’s out of our hands, for it’s all God’s

» *1 Cor 5:13 - But **them that are without** God judges.*

•Col 4:6 – “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

– What’s *speech always (at all times) with grace*; should we just stop there?

• Is this *speech* that is *gracious* or more than that?

• What does this look like?

• But, it’s seasoned with *salt*.

– *Salt* is body fluid, a preservative and a there’s a *salt* taste receptor.

– *Salt* to the Greek was the emblem of wit.



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- Although the Sermon on the Mount may not be directed to us, there's plenty there that relates to our life in Christ!
 - » *Matt 5:13 - Ye are the **salt** of the earth: but if the **salt** has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be **salted**? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*
- Think about this verse from the Sermon in context here to *walking in the wisdom* of the Lord among *those who are without*.
 - Is *salt* sometimes pejorative?
 - But should we be just doormats?
 - Circumstances are different and the Spirit must lead.
- And the alternative may be disastrous.
 - » *Eph 4:29 - Let no **corrupt communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*
- Constable – ‘The Christian's speech should mirror the gracious character and conduct of his or her God by demonstrating love, patience, sacrifice, undeserved favor, etc.’
- *that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man*



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- How does *grace* work in this way?
 - Again, here’s where the circumstances and individual(s) that come along are relevant!
- Remember – they are *without*.
 - » Prov 26:4 - Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou be like unto him.
 - » *1 John 4:5 - They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*
- But Jeremiah’s wisdom may apply here, as we are conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - » *Jer 17:8 - For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreads out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*
 - » *Luke 4:22 - And all bare him witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?*
- And here’s a verse that relates to everything we’ve covered today and provides us with great opportunity and comfort!
 - » *1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always** to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*



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•*Col 4:5 –*