

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

- "Devote yourselves to prayer..." (NASB)
 - determined to pray and determined in prayer
- Pray about the dangers you face "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation" Mt. 26:41
- Be thankful
 - Nurture an attitude of gratitude (1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 16, 17)

PRIVATE PREPARATION

3 At the same time, pray also for us that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

- While you're praying...
- Pray for others
- Pray for opportunities for the word "the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints" (1:26)

PRIVATE PREPARATION

- 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak
- Not "make me eloquent" or "entertaining"
- But that I may make "the word" easily understood
- The power to save is in the message "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:16)
- The messenger has the duty to "make it clear"

PRIVATE PREPARATION

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

- Behave like a believer
 - Jesus expects it (Matt. 5:14-16)
 - It glorifies your Father
 - It will cause others to glorify your Father
 - Outsiders will notice

"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Pet. 2:12)

PUBLIC PROCLAMATION

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PUBLIC PROCLAMATION

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

- Applies to both what we speak and how we speak "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 5:17)
- Pleasant and preserving
 - 'Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths' but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." (Eph. 4:29)
 - And that will take PRIVATE PREPARATION...

for

PUBLIC PROCLAMATION















