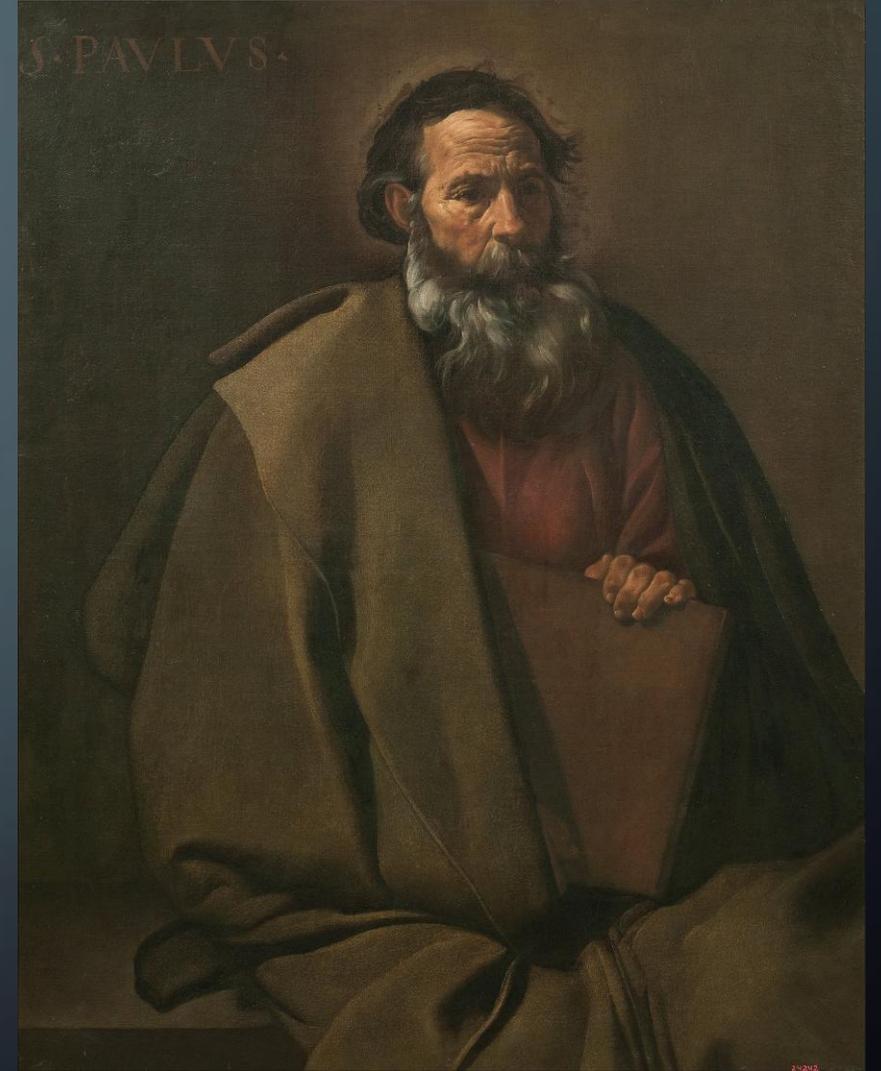


PAUL'S FINAL WORDS

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6



COLOSSIANS 4:2

- In the final words Paul was reminding the church to consistently be doing two things: (final words are important)
- **Prayer**—supplication and communicating with God (Eph. 6:18; Rom. 12:12; 1 Thes. 5:17)
- **Watchful**—vigilant, sober minded (1 Peter 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:5)
- But **how** should we do all these? And in what **attitude**?
- **Thanksgiving**—It is not hard to pray, but it is much harder to pray with **thanksgiving**. (Phil. 4:6-7)



COLOSSIANS 4:3

- Paul's prayer is an **example** for them and for us.
- (2 Tim. 4:5) Notice that one of the main things he was watching for is the lost souls around him.
- He asked them to pray for his **ability** to speak. Most people would not think of praying for that, instead many would request prayer for their **release** if they were in Paul's shoes.
- Notice Paul's **attitude** (e.g. 2 Cor. 1:11)



OUR ATTITUDE OF PRAYER

- The attitude of thanksgiving permeates Paul's prayer life and his sober judgement. (Phil. 4:6-7)
- The very reason Paul was not bitter about being in jail and could still rejoice and give thanks to God is because of his **understanding** and his **faith** in God.
- It is not just that we need to pray with a thankful heart. Moreover, a thankful heart **leads** us to rely on God which leads us to pray more.



thankful

THE GOSPEL AND THE WORD

- Specifically, notice what Paul was asking them to pray for:

1. He was asking for **opportunity** “open to us a door”

2. He was praying that the word of God will be **declared**—it is the word of God that saves (Rom. 10:17)

3. He was praying that the word of God be **understood**

- a. Make it **clear**—the work of a teacher (2 Tim. 2:15)

- b. How I ought to **speak**—we can get better at this

(1 Peter 3:15)

HOW TO SHARE THE WORD

- Besides making it clear, how ought we to speak?

1. Be **wise** (v.5) (James 3:13-18)

2. Seize the **opportunity** (v.5) (Eph. 6:19-20; 1 Thes. 2:2)

3. Be **gracious** (v.6) (Eph. 4:29 Prov. 16:24)

4. Season with salt (tasteful) (v.6) (Prov. 25:11-12)



- We have so much more to grow and learn
- How we ought to **pray** and be **watchful** (v.2)
- How we ought to **share our faith**—with God's word
- But above all, it was the **understanding** of God's word and his **attitude** toward God that counts.
- In which of these areas do you need to grow?

CONCLUSION

