Colossians 4: 2-6
Sunday, 1st November 2026

1. **In the film Grease, Olivia Newton-Jones sings the song, 'Hopeless devoted to you'. What or who have you been, or are, hopelessly devoted to?** As a teenager, Grease was one of Nicola's favourite films, and she knew all of the songs in the musical – see it you can get her to sing one of them to you this week!

2. **There is a saying: please engage your brain before you engage your mouth. Has there been a time when you engaged your mouth before your brain and said something inappropriate? What and when? What were the consequences and did you learn a lesson?**

Read Colossians 4: 2-6

[2] Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. [3] And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. [4] Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

3. **Paul tells the church in Colossae to 'devote themselves to prayer'. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Paul writes, 'Pray continually'. Wiersbe writes:**

   This doesn't mean that we should walk around muttering prayers under our breath. Rather, it means we should be constantly in fellowship with God so that prayer is as normal as breathing.

   a. **Are we hopeless devoted to prayer? If not, what it stopping us and how can we become more devoted?**
   b. **How do you model devotion to prayer in your life?**

4. **… being watchful - In what context does Jesus tell the disciples to 'watch and pray' (Mark 14:32-42)?**

a. **What was the consequence for Christ when they fell asleep?**
b. **Peter writes (1 Peter 5:8) that we should:**

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Not cheerful, but a warning. What are the consequences for us if we are not watchful/alert?

c. **Read Ephesians 6:18**

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

What are the consequences for others?

5. **…** ***and thankful*****. Think of 10 things you can be thankful for today, then compare and share.**

1.	**6.**
2.	**7.**
3.	**8.**
4.	**9.**
5.	**10.**

6. **Paul continues the theme of prayer in verses 4 & 5 when he asks for prayer from the Colossian church – '***and pray for us***'. However, whilst Paul is in prison, he does not ask to be released, but that, '***God may open a door for the message of Christ … that I may proclaim it clearly'***. Paul didn't ask for release but strength to fulfil his mission.**

a. **In prayer do we ask to be released from a task or for strength to complete it? In prayer, do we ask for strength or release?**
b. **Richard Tench wrote: prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness. What do you think God is willing to do in your life?**

c. **What did Jesus say in Luke 22: 42? '***Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.***' Does this give us any reassurance / help?**

7. **In verse 4 Paul writes:** *Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should*.

   a. **How important is it that we '**proclaim the gospel clearly**'?**
   b. **What sorts of things stop us '**proclaiming the gospel clearly'**? – language, generation, culture etc**
   c. **Do you pray for that God will open doors for you to proclaim the message clearly?**
   d. **Is proclaiming about preaching, or about the simple portrayal of the gospel in our lives? This can be on our frontlines.**

Reading Colossians 4: 5-6

[5] Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. [6] Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

8. **Are we wise in the way we 'act towards outsiders'?**

   a. **Is there any tangible difference between the lives that we lead and the lives of the people we interact with on our frontlines?**
   b. **Does the way we act towards outsiders attract or repel them from Christianity?**
   c. **Our lives are our testimony. What is your 'testimony' and have you shared it today?**

9. **Have you ever 'bagged a bargain'? Where and when?**

10. **In verse 5 Paul tells us to '**make the most of every opportunity'**. This can be translated as 'buying up or snapping up' every opportunity, just as we would 'bag a bargain'. Do we make the most of every opportunity on our frontlines or are we reluctant?**

11. **In verse 11 Paul writes: ‘**let your conversation be always full of grace**’.**

    a. **When was the last time you had a conversation or made a comment that was not ‘**full of grace**’? What was the consequence?**
    b. **How many people have left the church because of an ungracious word? Was it one of yours?**
    c. **Are we scared of those who are acerbic (describes speech, writing, or a person's tone as sharply or bitingly critical, or sarcastic), in case they turn on us? Should we be braver in calling them out?**
    d. **How do we ensure that our conversation is full of grace?**

12. **Our reading this week finishes with the statement, ‘**that you may know how to answer everyone.**’ Paul is calling us to have a greater understanding and knowledge of our faith so that we ‘**may know how to answer everyone**’. How important is faith knowledge and what are we doing to improve it?**

13. **One commentator has written that, ‘when character, conducted and conversation are all working together, it makes for a powerful witness. On a scale of 1 to 6, how do you measure in these three areas:?**

Not Good						**Very Good**
Character	**1.**	**2.**	**3.**	**4.**	**5.**	**6.**
Conduct	**1.**	**2.**	**3.**	**4.**	**5.**	**6.**
Conversation	**1.**	**2.**	**3.**	**4.**	**5.**	**6.**

What do you need to work on?

14. **A final quote and challenge to conclude: Godly walk goes hand in hand with Godly talk. In the coming days what does this look like on your frontline?**