

**Fill Up! And Overflow
(With the Right Stuff)
Col 4:2-6**

This is it!

Already covered the last part of chapter 4 few weeks back . . .

Last message in our series from Colossians entitled “Fill Up! And Overflow”

From Col 3:16

We’ll keep this in mind through the remainder of the ministry year

Read Col 4:2-6

Paul began with a thankful prayer for the Colossians – 1:3-14

Told us of his intense desire to present everyone mature in Christ – 1:24-2:5

Showed us what that maturity should look like – middle section of letter

Ends by giving some last instructions on overflowing with the right stuff

This is like . . .

A mom giving her student some last instructions as they get out of the car before school
– she wants them to have the right information for the day

A retiring financial consultant reiterating basics of investing to clients just before
turning out lights for last time – he wants them to continue with the same discipline

A soldier writing to his young son before going to battle, encouraging him to behave,
study hard, and obey his mom – to overflow with the right behavior

Likewise, here Paul gives us some last instructions so that, having been filled up on the
truth of his Word – we overflow with the right stuff

That begins with much prayer – Fill Up! And . . .

Overflow with much prayer

2 – *Continue steadfastly in prayer*

Pray with unrelenting persistence

Pray with perseverance and tenacity

With a sense of anticipation/expectation that God *will* respond

2 – *being watchful in it*

We are to keep alert and pray with the quiet confidence and assurance that God *will*
answer and provide

That’s the only way to pray *with thanksgiving* – an attitude of thankfulness . . .

Confident that God’s way and timing is best

• Overflow with much prayer – for opportunities to witness (v3)

3 – *a door for the word*

An opening in the hearts and minds of people that allows the truth in

That truth is *the mystery of Christ* – God’s purpose to reconcile the world to himself
through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ

Subtle reminder here that proclaiming the good news of Jesus does not always win friends
and influence people; there’s a cost

It may evoke hostility (*prison*, v3), rejection, or no response at all

Whatever the case, we need to overflow with much prayer for opportunities to witness

• Overflow with much prayer – to clearly present the gospel (v4)

Not so everyone will understand it, but so that it is understandable

Requires us to know/articulate the basics of gospel

Tracts at the Info Table; Websites – Steps to Peace, 2 Ways, Bridge; Email me

We should feel an unavoidable compulsion; burning conviction to speak in this way

That’s the only thing that will sustain us through the ups and downs of people accepting
or rejecting it

It’s the only thing that will make your presentation *effective*

Paul felt such a compulsion (4 – *how I ought to speak*), so much so that he was willing to
suffer persecution, hardship, and imprisonment

We need to pray for such a compulsion and conviction among us

We’re going to do so this morning – Open Mic Prayer time after communion

I want us to overflow with much prayer

Thankful for what God is doing among us

Asking God for continued opportunities to witness

Second, we need to . . .

Overflow with Christ-like behavior

5 – *Conduct yourselves wisely*

Walk in wisdom – that’s this phrase literally translated

Live upright and blamelessly before God and man

Live above reproach – in such a way that we cannot legitimately be accused of sin

Our way of life should match the way of life that Christ embodied and modeled

That’s walking in wisdom

And we need to do so especially . . .

5 – *toward outsiders*

• Overflow with Christ-like behavior toward non-Christians

Always conscious of our conduct as perceived by those who don’t know Jesus

Because blameless lives lay the foundation for fruitful witness

Not only that, but we should display this Christ-like behavior . . .

• With a sense of urgency

5 – *making the best use of the time*

Time is limited, and every moment is an opportunity to influence someone for Christ

Best Buy had a holiday offer this past Christmas . . .

If showed up before a certain hour, received a huge discount on anything in the store,
while supplies lasted

People showed up at 4 a.m.

Had so many people that they wrote vouchers while in line to prevent chaos and fights
when the doors opened

Why? Because they new a good opportunity when they saw one . . .

And wanted to take advantage of it

Making the best use of the time referred to shopping in Paul’s day

Used for determined bargain hunters to buy up good opportunities *now*, lest slip away

Use all that you have – effort, energy, influence, time, resources – to grab hold of every opportunity and make the most of it

Do so with a sense of urgency and passion like the crazy Best Buy shoppers
Requires a change in perspective to see every day as precious
To be used to the full in living out and proclaiming the gospel to others

We need to overflow with Christ-like behavior with a sense of urgency . . .
Toward those who don't know Jesus

And to the extent that you use words, use good ones . . .

Overflow with good words

Paul gets nitty-gritty here
If you don't think God is a God of details, think again
He cares about the kind of words you use in your conversations!

That's what Paul is getting at here when he says . . .

6 – *Let your speech be gracious*

Full of tact, kind, and polite
Not just talking about witnessing, but all speech, especially toward non-believers
Gracious conversation overcomes many barriers of skepticism in people's hearts/minds
Makes them more receptive to the message
Freeing for you – don't have to correct every wrong that comes out of their mouth

Not only that, but our words should be . . .

6 – *seasoned with salt*

Our words should enhance a conversation just like salt does to food
Should be words that make an otherwise boring conversation, interesting
Should be words that add a flavor of wit

If you're telling off-color jokes, using racial slurs, comments in poor taste, swear words . .

You're not enhancing anything; You're degrading the conversation

If you laugh at those slurs and jokes and comments . . .

You're piling on and adding to the degradation

Draw the line in putting someone at ease in a conversation when the words do not reflect pure, wholesome, honorable, excellent, praise-worthy thoughts

Your conversation and words should be tactful and interesting so . . .

6 – *that you may know how to answer each person*

When your words contribute to a two-way conversation, you'll know the heart and perspective of the person to whom you're talking
That will enable you to know how to best answer their thoughts or questions

Let's be a church that fills up and overflows with the right stuff

Good words – tactful, interesting, and ready
Christ-like behavior toward non-Christians, with some urgency
Much prayer for opportunities to witness and clearly present the gospel

What better way to reflect on that and commit to making some changes in your life, than at the Lord's Table

The Lord's Table/Communion

1 Cor. 11:23-32

Symbolic act to . . . Remember the death of Christ as payment for our sins
Reflect on his presence in our lives and church

If accepted Jesus as your Savior and follow him as Lord of your life . . . Please join us

Look back and remember

Look up with thanks

Look in for unconfessed sin

So you don't eat or drink in an unworthy manner – 1 Cor. 11:27

If haven't accepted Jesus . . . Let bread and cup pass

Reflect on what's preventing you from doing so – unbelief, pride

A – Acknowledge you're a sinner (confess your sins to him)

B – Believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again for your life

C – Commit to following him as Lord of your life (invite him into your life)

Establish your relationship with Jesus right now

After we pray . . . Distribute both the bread and cup

Hang on to them – spend some time before the Lord in the quietness of your own heart

We'll take them together

Bread — 1 Cor 11:23-24

Cup — 1 Cor 11:25

This cup is the new covenant in my blood . . .

Cup is symbolic of the promise/covenant of salvation that Christ's death/shed blood guarantees

Open Mic Prayer

Line up behind the mics; Alternate back and forth

Be brief to allow as many as possible to pray

I'll close it when the time comes