
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Live Wisely Among Non-Believers!

Sunday, September 21, 2025

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² Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

(Colossians 4:2-4, NLT)

The first step in wise living is to stay _____ to God through prayer. To be devoted to or persistent in those conversations with God – do not _____.

- **Pray with an alert mind – being watchful and praying with purpose – especially _____ on the circumstances of life that affect the _____ of the gospel.**
- **Pray with a heart filled with thanksgiving for all God has done and _____ as He continues to write His story of salvation over every generation.**

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6, NLT)

Make the most of _____ opportunity you have with a non-believer. They are _____ watching you – looking to see if your actions and words reflect your confession of Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life.

- Be careful not to say or do anything that would make it _____ to share the gospel with them. (Do your work; pay your bills; keep your promises; live in a way that honors Christ.)
 - Always be looking for ways to _____ about the hope and salvation you have in Jesus Christ.
- Make sure those conversations are _____ and attractive – seasoned with salt – so that you will have a response that _____ the Lord.

To speak what is spiritual, wholesome, fitting, kind, sensitive, purposeful, complimentary, gentle, truthful, loving, and thoughtful. Seasoned with salt – just as salt not only flavors, but prevents corruption, the Christians speech should act not only as a blessing to others, but as a purifying influence within the decaying society of the world. (John MacArthur – The MacArthur Bible Commentary, page 1745.)

Paul says it like this to the Ephesians:

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸ Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:15-20, NLT)

Peter says it like this:

¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:13-18, NLT)

_____ God to help you be a person who will “shine bright” for Jesus – reflecting His glory everywhere you go. _____ Him to lead you and give you opportunities to share His love with people each day.

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:3-9, NLT)

Isaiah describes that incredible day when the people of God will be together with the Lord for all eternity!

⁶ In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven's Armies
will spread a wonderful feast
for all the people of the world.

It will be a delicious banquet
with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.

⁷ There he will remove the cloud of gloom,
the shadow of death that hangs over the earth.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever!

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears.

He will remove forever all insults and mockery
against his land and people.

The LORD has spoken!

⁹ In that day the people will proclaim,

"This is our God!

We trusted in him, and he saved us!

This is the LORD, in whom we trusted.

Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!" (Isaiah 25:6-9, NLT)