Jesus inaugurated His Kingdom that it might be experienced *HERE and NOW*, even as we wait for its full installation *THERE and THEN*.



The Context of Colossians "The context is that erroneous teachers implied that Christ's work of redemption was incomplete—that certain other religious practices were required to supplement Christ's saving death and resurrection...Paul adamantly insists in Colossians that adding to the Gospel message is really subtracting from grace. -Mary Ann Getty



-Richard Warfield Sylvester III

A Simple Outline of Colossians

- I. Defining the Completeness of Christ (1:13-29)
- II. Defending the Completeness of Christ (2:1-23)
- III. Demonstrating the Completeness of Christ (3:1-4:6)

Prayer precedes movement

- Hannah 1 Samuel 1:9-20
- Nehemiah Nehemiah 1:1-11, 2:1-5
- Elijah 1 Kings 18:30-38

Prayer moves us into mission—Col. 4:2-6 I. Characteristics of Prayer—vv.2-4



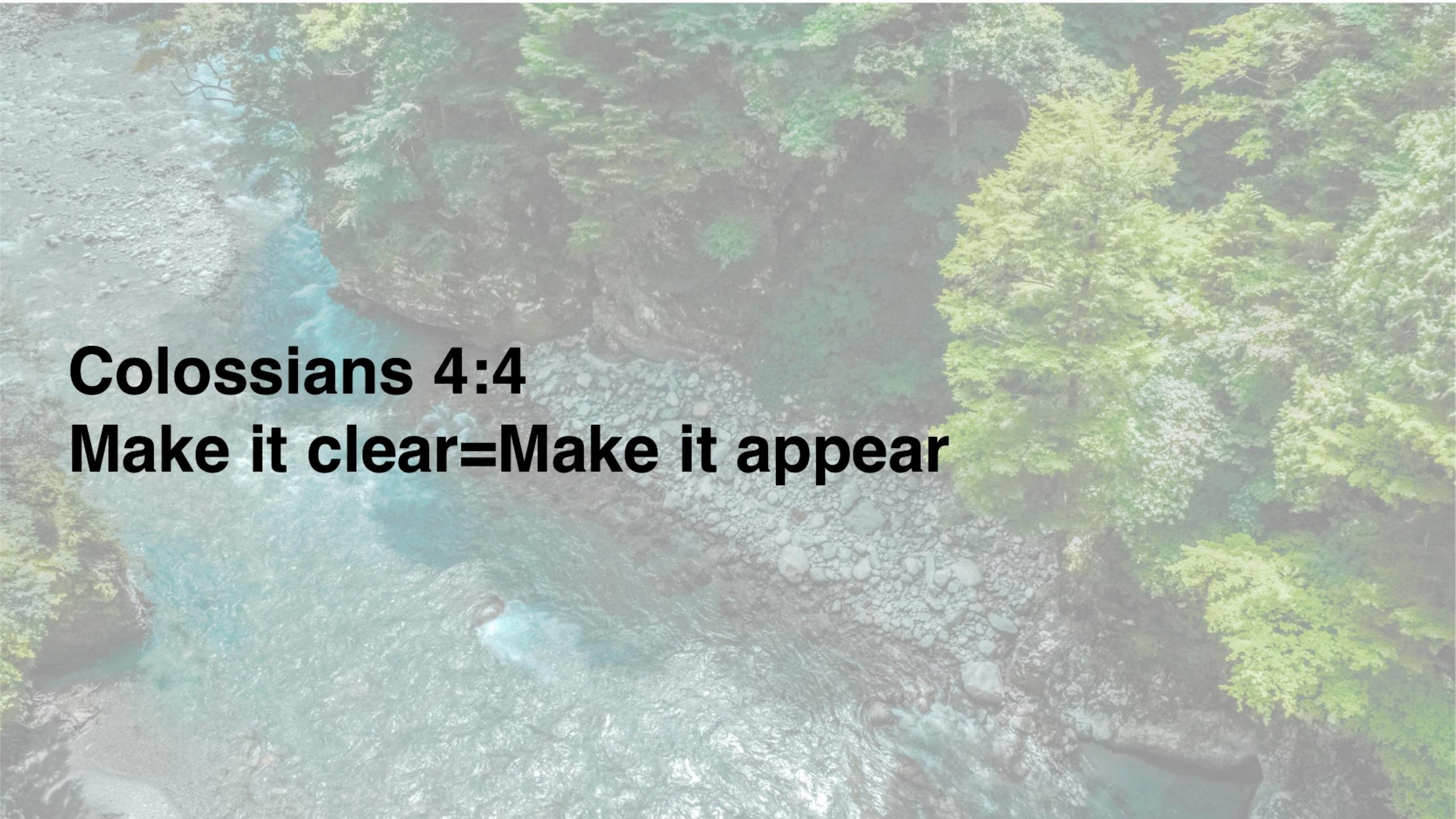
- a. Steadfast-v.2
- b. Watchful-v.2
- c. Thankful -v.2

"What the 'watching' believers are to do in these texts is not watch for Christ's return, but watch their own life in light of the return of Christ."

-Douglas Moo

Prayer moves us into mission—Col. 4:2-6 I. Characteristics of Prayer—vv.2-4

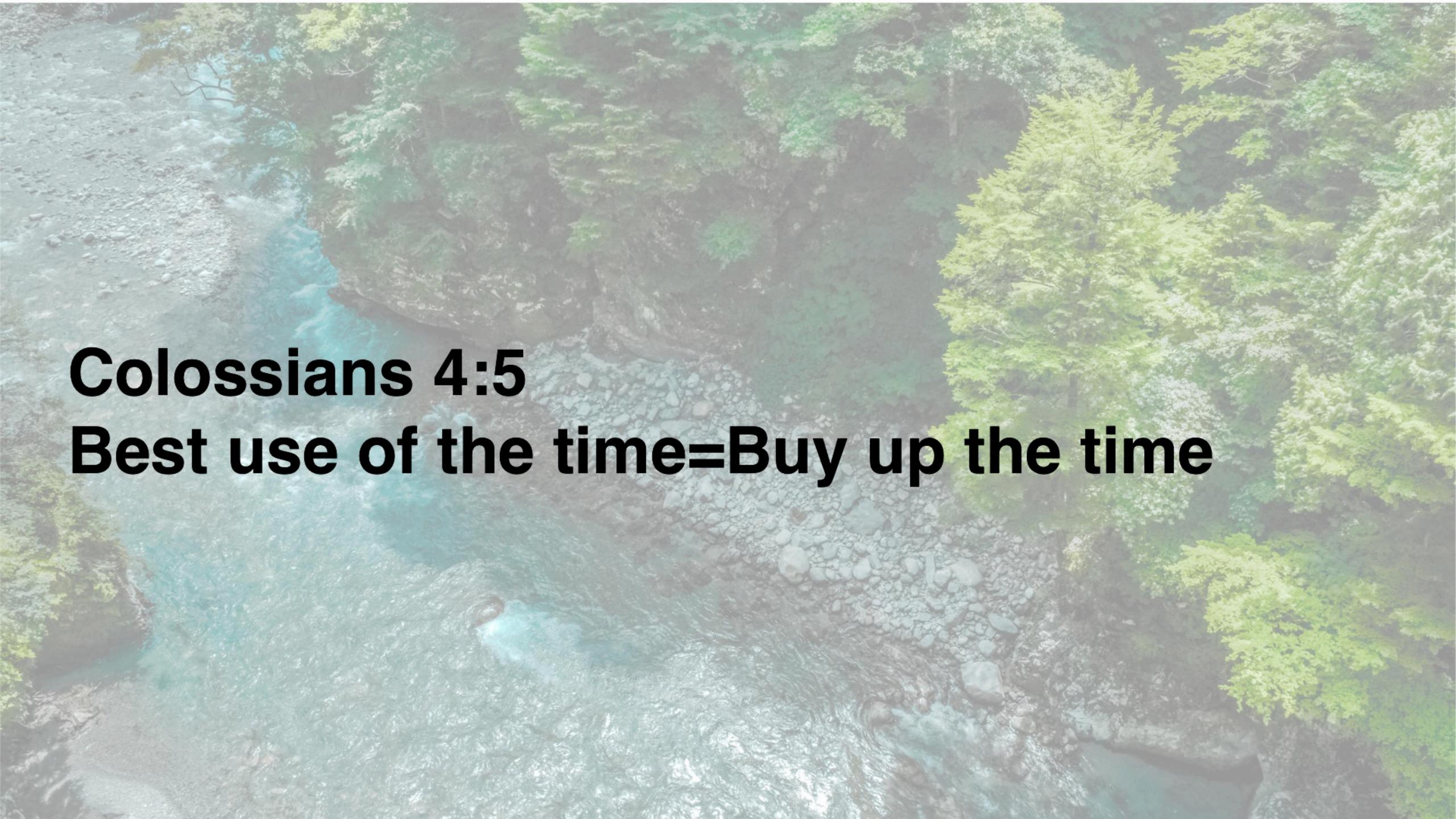
- a. Steadfast-v.2
- b. Watchful—v.2
- c. Thankful -v.2
- d. Transformative—vv.3-4



Prayer moves us into mission—Col. 4:2-6 I. Characteristics of Prayer—vv.2-4 II. Challenges of Prayer—vv.5-6 a. Live faithfully within culture—v.5 b. Live with civility toward others—v.6a c. Live a questionable life—v.6b

From Wow to How—shake some salt

- Sacrifice Leviticus 2:13
- Commitment Numbers 18:19
- Healing 2 Kings 2:19-22
- Seasoning Job 6:6-7
- Preservative Colossians 4:6



"The imagery used is the commercial language of the marketplace and indicates that the readers are to buy up time eagerly, capitalizing on the opportunities it offers for living out what is pleasing to their Lord."

- Andrew T. Lincoln

Application Questions:

 During this series, when will you pray steadfast, watchful, thankful prayers that are open to God's transformative power?

- 1. Leaders must set the example on how to differ with others without demonizing them.
- 2. Leaders must set the example of how to have spirited conversations without "drawing blood."

- 3. Leaders must not interrupt others who are talking and must not dominate the conversation.
- 4. Leaders must set the example of limiting their volume levels and refusing to use "incendiary" or "belittling" words that guarantee to derail discussion

- 5. Leaders must set the example of being courteous in word and deed to everyone at every level.
- 6. Leaders must never stereotype.
- 7. Leaders must apologize immediately when they are wrong, instead of denying or doubling down.

- 8. Leaders must form opinions carefully and stay open minded if better information comes along.
- 9. Leaders must set the example of showing up when they say they are going to show up and doing what they say they are going to do.

10. Leaders must set "Rules of Respect" for everyone in the organization and enforce them relentlessly.

Application Questions:

- During this series, when will you pray steadfast, watchful, thankful prayers that are open to God's transformative power?
- Which rule for respect do you need to begin applying this week?

Jesus' questionable life

- Where do you get that living water?
 - -Jn 4:11
- · Who gave you this authority?—Lk 20:2
- Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? — Mt 15:2
- · Who can forgive sins but God alone?
 - -Mk 2:7
- · Who is this?—Mk 4:41

Application Questions:

- During this series, when will you pray steadfast, watchful, thankful prayers that are open to God's transformative power?
- Which rule for respect do you need to begin applying this week?
- What are you doing that is making people ask, "What are you doing?"

Prayer moves us into mission—Col. 4:2-6

- I. Characteristics of Prayer—vv.2-4
 - a. Steadfast-v.2
 - b. Watchful-v.2
 - c. Thankful -v.2
 - d. Transformative—vv.3-4
- II. Challenges of Prayer—vv.5-6
 - a. Live faithfully within culture—v.5
 - b. Live with civility toward others—v.6a
 - c. Live a questionable life—v.6b