

Colossians 4:2-6

I. Introduction

A. This morning, we are finishing the third section of Colossians with Colossians 4:2-6

1. But, again, before we start, I want to remember what Colossians is about and how Colossians is organized
2. So, we'll start with our purpose statement for Colossians: Colossians calls us to see how truly glorious Jesus is and to root all of our hope in Him knowing that He is true wisdom to meet our every need. This will prevent us from instead pursuing the hopes and purposes of this world and being captured by worldly wisdom.
3. And the outline we're Colossians, we are looking at Colossians in four parts:
 - a. Rooted in the Gospel (~ chapter 1)
 - b. Refusing Worldly Wisdom (~ chapter 2)
 - c. Renewed in Christ (~ chapter 3)
 - d. Relational Truth (~ chapter 4)

B. For the last several weeks we have been in the third section of Colossians: Renewed in Christ

1. This section is the positive response to Paul's warning to the Colossians - if chapter 2 is what the Colossians should not get trapped in, should not pursue, then chapter 3 is what the Colossians should devote themselves to
2. So several weeks ago, we looked at Colossians 3:5-11 and saw that Paul's practice is to forsake earth - to put to death that which is earthly in you, to kill off those things that are contrary to Christ, whether they be Christ-dishonoring hearts, Christ-dishonoring relationships, or Christ-dishonoring community
3. The next week, we focused on Colossians 3:9-11 and saw that Paul's practice is centered on a corporate re-creation reflected in the local church - the group of people who are together being remade into the image of Christ for His glory
4. The third week we looked at Colossians 3:12-17 and saw that Paul's practice is to embrace heaven - we need to put on the righteousness of Christ in a real way by acknowledging who we are in Christ and who our brothers and sisters are in Christ - which means we will put on Christ-like attitudes toward one another and we will pursue activities together that help us to see and pursue Christ better together
5. And last week we looked at Colossians 3:18-4:1 and saw that a healthy church requires a healthy family and each member of the family can live in their family in a way that helps them and others see the glory of Christ

C. So Paul is speaking to different areas of life and showing us how to bring every arena of life under Christ's control

1. He started with the church - how do we live in Christian Churches to display Christ's glory and seek after heaven?
2. He moved to the family - how do we live in Christian Families to display Christ's glory and seek after heaven?
3. In this last paragraph he is going to talk to the individual - how do we live as Christian Individuals to display Christ's glory and seek after heaven?
4. And Paul's answer is going to reflect what he's taught so far in Colossians, so far in Colossians we've seen that:
 - a. Paul wants the Colossians to set their hope fully in the gospel, not shifting it to other things
 - b. And he warns the Colossians about dangers, against things that might start to shift their hope to worldly ideas
 - c. And he shows them how to live as a church and as families in order to pursue hope in the gospel
5. So, it shouldn't surprise us that Paul's prescription for Christian individuals is to have a lifestyle devoted to the gospel
 - a. Paul wants every Christian to have their life revolve around the gospel, to put it at the center so that they can constantly draw hope, and joy, and endurance, and patience from the gospel
 - b. So Paul is going to call for three things here at the end of his instruction: he will call for a lifestyle devoted to prayer, a lifestyle devoted to missions, and a lifestyle devoted to evangelism

D. Let's read Colossians 4:2-6

E. Proposition: Paul wants us to center our lives on the gospel which will be reflected in:

1. A Lifestyle Devoted to Prayer
2. A Lifestyle Devoted to Missions
3. A Lifestyle Devoted to Evangelism

II. A Lifestyle Devoted to Prayer

Colossians 4:2 - *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

As we look at this verse, I see three things Paul is calling us to here:

We need to be steadfast in prayer, we need to be watchful in prayer, and we need to be thankful in prayer

A. First, we need to be steadfast in prayer

1. This is Paul's main command - continue steadfastly in prayer - and the meaning of this command is pretty straightforward - Paul wants our lives to be marked by a continual devotion to prayer
2. And this is really the summation of all of Paul's teaching in Colossians
 - a. Because it is in prayer that we set our eyes on the things of heaven, not the things of earth
 - b. It is in prayer that rejoice in the glory of Christ
 - c. It is in prayer that we seek the wisdom of Christ
 - d. It is in prayer that we turn our minds away from the philosophy and empty deceit of this world
 - e. It is in prayer that we fight against our old sinful nature and it is in prayer that we seek to put on the new creation given to us in Christ
 - f. So, Paul has taught all these things in his letter to the Colossians, and now he's saying, "do it!" Seek these things out in prayer, and want these things so much that it drives to be continually in prayer. In prayer seek to see the glory of Christ and let that glory transform you.
3. So, it is no surprise that the New Testament often calls us to prayerfulness
 - a. Paul gives the same command to the Ephesians, Ephesians 6:18 - *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 saints.*
 - b. Paul gives the same command to the Romans, Romans 12:12 - *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*
 - c. Paul gives the same command to the Thessalonians, I Thessalonians 5:16-17 - *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
 - d. And all these commands are merely reflecting what Christ had commanded His disciples, Luke 18:1 - *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*
4. So we ought to be intentionally devoted to prayer
 - a. Prayerfulness should be a first order mark of our life, not because it's a duty like the Muslims, but because it is a joy and a delight, an opportunity to seek out the things of Christ

B. Second, we need to be watchful in prayer

1. Colossians 4:2 - *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving*
2. The word watchful here literally means 'wake up' or 'stay awake', and it is used multiple times in the New Testament
 - a. The majority of times it is used, it means to be anticipating the return of Christ, for example in Matthew 24 and 25, Jesus says - *But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only ...* (and then after telling a few parables, concludes) ... *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*
 - b. Other times, it is used to be on guard against temptation or an enemy, for example I Peter 5:8 - *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* Or Matthew 26:41 - *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
3. The idea of the word is to be anticipating something and watching for it, which is closely related to one of Paul's main themes in Colossians - hope
 - a. Colossians 1:3-5 - *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.*
 - b. Colossians 1:21-23 - *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*
 - c. Colossians 1:27 - *To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
 - d. The Colossians had found hope in the Gospel and Paul wanted them to continue finding hope in the Gospel

4. So, now Paul tells them to be watchful in prayer - a word used for anticipation, especially for the return of Christ
 - a. Paul wants the Colossians to pray with earnest anticipation the promises of the gospel - they heard the promises of the gospel, they hoped in the promises of the gospel, now watch for the promises of the gospel to come true in prayer, especially the promise that Christ will return and bring them to glory
 - b. And really, this can be a useful self-measure to help us see whether our hope is really in the gospel - if our hope is in the gospel, then our prayers will be filled with the gospel - if we are never in prayer, or if our prayers never get beyond things we want in this world, then clearly our hope isn't really in the gospel, we don't really want what the gospel is offering us - but if our prayers are full of gospel desire it displays what we really want
5. So, I think this should do at least three things to our prayers
 - a. First, this should affect the frequency of our prayers - literally this command means 'stay awake' - we shouldn't be distracted from prayer by lesser things, lured into 'drowsiness', real or figurative, instead we should be vigilant in prayer - be watchful, like a guard
 - b. Second, this should affect the topic of our prayers - our prayers should be filled with gospel truths - what are we watching for? The promises of the gospel, the promises that Christ made to us - so our prayers should be scaffolded on the promises of the gospel - God, you promised that in Christ you would make me a new creation, let me see the fulfillment of that promise!
 - c. Third, this should affect the attitude of our prayers - as we pray the promises of the gospel, we should pray with faith, with anticipation, watching for their fulfillment - no promise of God ever goes unfulfilled, so we pray with hope, and we keep praying until we see the promises fulfilled, which really means, we never stop praying, because the promises of God won't be completely fulfilled until Christ returns

C. Third, we need to be thankful in prayer

1. Colossians 4:2 - *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving*
2. This comes back to another theme that has pervaded Colossians - if the Colossians have found real hope, saving hope in the gospel, then their response should be thankfulness
3. So yearning for gospel promises should fill up our prayers, but requests shouldn't overwhelm our prayers - we also need to respond to gospel promises with extreme thankfulness for all that God has done
4. But notice, our prayers are completely built on gospel promises - yearning for gospel promises and thankfulness for gospel promises - prayer is the natural response to loving the promises of God
5. So we should have both - a deep yearning and a deep thankfulness for all that God has done - and we should express these desires to God in prayer, we need to give voice our thankfulness
6. So don't let your prayers be overwhelmed by requests, especially low, non-gospel centered requests - instead let your prayers be filled with glorious gospel promises, and never let your prayer be made without thanksgiving - we shouldn't be able to even think about what God has done for us in Christ without responding in thanksgiving, so let it flow out in prayer

III. A Lifestyle Devoted to Missions

Colossians 4:3-4 - *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison---that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

Paul moves from prayer in general, to specific prayer that the gospel would be advanced

And as he does so, he calls everyone in the church to be involved in missions and teaches us some important things about how the gospel should be spread throughout the world - so let's look at three things

A. First, the most important thing you can do for missions is pray

1. Every Christian should have a desire to see the message of the cross go forward into places where it has never been heard or never been embraced, and every Christian should be part of this effort
 - a. But this doesn't mean that every Christian is going to go, in fact, in the story of the New Testament we follow some of the most famous missionaries of Christ, like Paul, but we also get glimpses that very few were chosen by the Holy Spirit for this sort of work- most Christians didn't travel around the world to preach the gospel
 - b. But Paul tells the Colossians here that every Christian can be involved in missions through prayer - in fact, this is the best way to be involved in missions and the most powerful tool in missions, prayer
 - c. And I say this on good authority, because when Jesus Himself was confronted by the massiveness of the operation to spread His message to the ends of the world, He didn't immediately call His disciples to go, first He called them to pray, Matthew 9:37-38 - *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*
2. Prayer is the most important thing you can do for missions, because missions is never really our work
 - a. The spread of the gospel happens by the power of the Holy Spirit calling people to bow the knee to Christ - that's a task we can't do and we really can't add to, we must be devoted to prayer because the work is the Holy Spirit's
 - b. Assuredly, God has ordained that His message is sent by human messengers, so people must go and preach the gospel, but even those that go are merely a tool chosen by God, we even see that this is true of Paul, Acts 13:2-3 - *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*
3. So, far from being a consolation prize to allow those who don't go to be involved in missions, prayer is the most important task in missions and it is a task that is open wide to all believers wherever they are
 - a. So as our prayers are filled with yearning and thankfulness for gospel promises, they should also be filled with intercession that the promises of the gospel would go forward throughout the world and those preaching the gospel would be able to speak it clearly and boldly
 - b. So be involved in spreading the gospel throughout the world by praying: pray in general that the gospel would go forward throughout the world and pray specifically for those that you know that are preaching the gospel

B. Second, the purpose of missions is to clearly declare the gospel

1. In the midst of his command to pray for missions, Paul tells us a couple of important things about missions, and the first is the purpose of missions - the purpose of missions is to clearly declare the gospel
 - a. Colossians 4:3-4 - *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison---that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*
2. And I think this is an important reminder for us, because sometimes that goal can get lost
 - a. It seems that in a lot of 'missions' opportunities throughout the world the purpose can get muddled a bit - sometimes it seems that helping people, or giving people a better life or giving people better economic opportunities, or this or that drowns out the message of the gospel
 - b. Not that any of these things are bad things - but missions must always be first and foremost about clearly declaring the gospel - that is, speaking the gospel in words that make the story of the gospel and the command of the gospel clear to those whom you have been sent to
3. This is what Paul wanted most - that he would speak the gospel clearly because he was sent out to proclaim a message
 - a. And we should make sure that this is our goal in missions - we should participate in missions, individually and as a church, that are clear in their purpose and accomplish their purpose of speaking clearly the truth and the demands of the gospel of Christ
 - b. That is one of the few things that are under a missionaries control - a missionary can't control how a people group reacts to him, or how many people respond positively to the gospel message, or how many churches are planted - but a missionary can choose to speak the gospel clearly wherever he goes and make that the most important part, the foundation of his ministry
 - c. That's what we should be pursuing in missions - helping people is good, but preaching the gospel is essential

C. Third, the practice of missions must be perseverance through persecution

1. Colossians 4:3-4 - *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison---that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*
2. Paul throws in this interesting aside in the middle of his request for prayer - he's asking that even while he's in prison that God would allow him to keep preaching the gospel!
3. And I think this tells us something important about the practice of missions - those who are sent out need to be ready to preach the gospel in the face of continued and sometimes even overwhelming persecution, they need to be so dedicated to making the message known that they will endure whatever comes
4. In fact, this is what Jesus commanded the first missionaries that were sent out, Matthew 10:16-23 - *Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*
5. Missionaries will be persecuted and their message will be rejected, and that's not a problem
 - a. All it calls for is that the missionary keep trusting in God and keep holding on to his purpose - to preach the gospel
 - b. In the end, it calls for a missionary to be so in love with the message of the gospel that temporal circumstances aren't going to deter his passion of preaching the message
 - c. So, if you are ever called to go as a missionary to the ends of the earth, don't be surprised or discouraged when you face persecution, instead be ready for it beforehand, love the gospel enough not to be turned aside
 - d. And if you know missionaries, don't be surprised when they face persecution, instead pray that they will endure through it and would have opportunities for the gospel even through the persecution

IV. A Lifestyle Devoted to Evangelism

Colossians 4:5-6 - *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

Paul moves from missions, the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, to evangelism, the spread of the gospel around you, and calls all Christians to participate in evangelism as well

So we'll look at four things to describe how we can pursue evangelism as individuals

A. First, be living your life so as to display the gospel

1. Colossians 4:5 - *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders,*
 - a. Again, like in his prescription on a missions-oriented lifestyle, Paul doesn't start with preaching the gospel, even though, clearly, preaching the gospel was of infinite importance to Paul
 - b. Paul also knew that not every Christian was called to be a missionary or to be an evangelist - not every Christian is called to devote themselves to preaching the gospel either at home or abroad
 - c. But every Christian is called to participate in evangelism - and Paul says that one of the best ways to participate in evangelism is to make sure that your lifestyle reflects the gospel
2. So Paul says, walk in wisdom toward outsiders - make sure that unbelievers see the gospel through the way you live your life
 - a. Wisdom is one of Paul's main themes in Colossians, and it is wrapped up in Jesus and the gospel, in fact, in Colossians 2:3 Paul says that all wisdom is found in Christ - *in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*
 - b. So to walk in wisdom means to walk in a way that intentionally reflects Christ and what He has done, and we are to walk that way specifically toward outsiders, those not in the church
 - c. How we live our lives is a powerful means of evangelism - our lifestyle should be a testament to the gospel, a statement that we have something different and better to base our lives around, a display that the things of this world have no authority over us because we belong to a better master
3. So Paul is saying something very similar to what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount
 - a. Matthew 5:14-16 - *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*
 - b. We are to be the light of the world, to let the work of Christ in us shine out to a watching world, to let them see the good works in us that have been wrought by Christ
 - c. So be intentional about living your life toward outsiders in a way that displays your hope is in Christ, in a way that is different and Scriptural that makes those around you wonder what you have
 - d. Now, don't get me wrong, preaching the gospel is of infinite importance, but those called to preach the gospel have a much easier job when the entire community of believers are living testaments to the gospel
 - e. So be a part of evangelism by demonstrating with your life that you are not in love with this world, but are in love with Jesus Christ and He is infinitely better

B. Second, be on the lookout for gospel opportunities

1. Colossians 4:5-6 - *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*
2. Paul says your lifestyle is a foundational part of evangelism, but he doesn't stop there - he says we should be intentionally looking for opportunities to specifically display the gospel
 - a. The Greek here literally means '*redeeming the opportunities*', but 'making the best use of the time' is a decent translation of the meaning
 - b. Paul wants us to think through - how can I redeem this opportunity, how can I use this chance to display the gospel, how can I act right now to show something glorious about Jesus?
 - c. So 'making the best use of the time' is a decent translation, because Paul wants us to consider - why am I doing this thing, when I could be doing this other thing that displays Jesus more? Am I using my time well to honor Christ, or am I wasting it pursuing other things? Am I making the best use of my time to glorify Jesus?
3. So, we don't only live to display the gospel in general ways, we need to be looking for opportunities to display the gospel in specific ways
 - a. How can I use this opportunity to display the gospel? What can I do to turn this into a gospel opportunity?
 - b. Keeping that question at the forefront of our mind will make us ready to walk through open doors that God presents before us
 - c. It doesn't mean we have to force opportunities, but we should be on the lookout for them so that when they appear we can use them well, we can make the best use of the time

C. Third, be sure your words always reflect the gospel

1. Colossians 4:6 - *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,*
2. Although Paul has emphasized lifestyle before words in this section, he's not going to leave words out
 - a. We need to live in a way that displays the gospel but we also need to speak in a way that displays the gospel
3. This verse hinges on the potentially confusing phrase, though, 'seasoned with salt'
 - a. Understanding this phrase is central to understanding what Paul is calling us to, I think
 - b. This phrase evokes another thing Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:13 - *You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.*
 - i. So salt has something to do with displaying God to the world, reflecting God's covenant in life
 - c. But the actual phrase comes from the Old Testament, from Exodus 30:34-35 - *The LORD said to Moses, "Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (of each shall there be an equal part), and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy.*
 - i. The incense burned in the Tabernacle and the Temple were to be seasoned with salt
 - ii. And when the incense was burned, the salt somehow reflected purity and holiness
 - d. I think Leviticus helps us understand that phrase, because there was one other offering that was to be offered with salt, Leviticus 2:13 - *You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.*
 - i. Salt was a reminder and a display of God's covenant in the midst of the offering
 - ii. And the grain offering symbolized an Israelites service to the Lord, so salting the offering with the salt of the covenant was declaring that the Israelite's service was not really from him, but was made possible by God's covenant - even in offering grain back to God, the Israelite declared that it all had come from God
4. So now we return to Colossians 4:6 - *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt,*
 - a. Just like the offerings were to be seasoned with salt to reflect God's covenant, our words should be seasoned with salt to reflect God's covenant with us
 - b. Our words should always be in line with the gospel and our words should be used to speak truths from the gospel whenever possible
 - c. Now Paul isn't speaking primarily about intentional preaching of the gospel, but rather all of life - are your words always reflecting the gospel? Would someone know from how you talk that your hope is in Jesus Christ? If someone was to listen to you for a while, would they hear how good Jesus is?
 - d. We need to make sure all of our words are reflecting the gospel, that they are seasoned with salt, displaying the grace of Christ

D. Finally, be ready to answer any gospel question

1. Colossians 4:6 - *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*
2. By the end of these two verses, Paul shows what he's aiming at
 - a. Paul wants us to live our lives to display the gospel, to look for gospel opportunities, and to make sure our speech always reflects the gospel, because when we're doing that, people are going to wonder what makes us different
 - b. When we're living and speaking in a way that displays the gospel, people are going to ask us about our lives, about our words, about our Jesus, and Paul says, "be ready to answer"
3. So every Christian can be involved in speaking the gospel, not because every Christian is called to be an evangelist, devoting their time to preaching the gospel to others, but because our lives will bring out questions
 - a. If we're living and speaking so as to display the gospel, we don't have to force gospel opportunities, they will come to us in questions
 - b. So be ready to answer with gospel truth when someone asks you why your different - be ready to speak the gospel at the right opportunities
 - c. In fact, both halves move from general to specific - be living the gospel and look for opportunities, be speaking the gospel and look for opportunities
4. It's the same thing Peter says in I Peter 3:15 - *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*
 - a. Peter has been making substantially the same point - Christians should live their lives, even in the midst of unjust suffering, to display that Jesus is better
 - b. And when they do this, inevitably questions will come - you don't need to force situations, simply be ready to answer when someone asks, be ready to speak the gospel when the opportunity lies open in front of you

5. So be ready to speak the gospel at the right time
 - a. This means we need to know the gospel well enough to speak it - make sure you that you have the truths of the gospel so clear in your own mind that you can speak them out clearly whenever your asked
 - b. And this means we need to trust God enough to speak when we're asked - even when it seems uncomfortable, or awkward, or perhaps even dangerous, when we're asked we need to answer - so answering is ultimately a resting in God - trust God enough that you can answer truthfully and powerfully
6. Paul doesn't expect every believer to be an evangelist - in fact in Ephesians he'll describe evangelists as a special gifting to the church beside pastors and teachers
 - a. But he does expect every believer to love the gospel enough that they are ready to speak it when the clear opportunity lies before them
 - b. So live and speak in ways that invite questions about the gospel, and when questions come, answer them with Christ

So every Christian can live in ways that show that the gospel is central to our lives, that the gospel is our hope

- A. Our lives should be steeped in prayer, showing that we want the promises of the gospel and we are thankful for the promises of the gospel
- B. Our lives should be devoted to missions, desiring that God would send His gospel forward to the ends of the earth as He promised to do
- C. And our lives should be devoted to evangelism, displaying with our lives and our words that we love the gospel and being ready to speak the gospel when God gives us the opportunity
- D. In sum, the gospel should fill us up so that it's always right beneath the surface ready to come out at every opportunity - whether in prayer to God or in speech to others - the gospel should be so central to our lives that the gospel is what comes out
- E. So love the gospel, make it central to your life, and let your prayers, your participation in missions, and your evangelism show that you love Christ