



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The mystery that we are to share (Colossians 4:2 – 4:18)	SPEAKER	Pastor Low Kok Guan
THEME	Book Study (Colossians)	DATE	27 & 28 June 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Ps Kok Guan suggests that a person's last words are worth paying attention to. Colossians 4 contains the final words that Apostle Paul is leaving to the church in Colossae. It can be divided into two broad parts – (1) final instructions from Paul (Colossians 4:2-6) and (2) the final greetings (Colossians 4:7-18).

SHARING THE MYSTERY

The gospel of Jesus Christ is meant to be shared. In Colossians 4:3, the apostle Paul invites the church to pray so that the mystery of Christ can be revealed. The word "mystery" is repeated in Colossians 1:27 and 2:2. This mystery refers to the gospel of Jesus Christ. From Colossians 4, Ps Kok Guan distilled for us three main points on how to share this mystery.

1) Watch Prayerfully

The first is to continue steadfastly in prayer and in watching (Colossians 4:2). The word "continue" has the idea of pressing on and holding closely to.

Ps Kok Guan gives us four things to watch for.

- **Watch what is happening around us:** To be aware of the events and activities happening around the world and the communities that we live in.
- **Watch our hearts:** To maintain a posture of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2). Using the illustration of a triangle, Ps Kok Guan reminds us that "pray," "watch," and "give thanks" are at three ends of the triangle. They need to be applied in tandem with one another.
- **Watch out for the schemes of the evil one:** To be aware of the enemies' attempts to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10a).
- **Watch what God is doing or saying to us:** To pray the Word and seek God's heart through constant communion with Him.

Emphasising on the importance of prayer, Ps Kok Guan teaches us that prayer is not the preparation for the work, but it is the work itself. As seen in Colossians 4:12-13, the apostle Paul wrote of Epaphras, who was "struggling on your behalf in his prayers" and "working hard for you."

Application question: Have you been praying?

2) Walk Wisely

In order that others might listen, Ps Kok Guan reminds us that we must “walk wisely.” The word “walk” in Colossians 4:5 refers to how we live our daily lives. We can glean deeper insights from other translations which read “to live wisely” (NLT). In fact, we are to do so “among those who are not believers” (NLT), and to “make the best use of the time” (ESV) and the “most of every opportunity” (NLT) to do so. This means that we are to live in a way that glorifies God, so that with divine opportunity and wisdom, God may open doors for us to share the gospel with pre-believers.

While this sounds challenging, Ps Kok Guan encourages us to return to the first point – to watch prayerfully. He led us to James 1:5, which also teaches us to ask God for wisdom.

Application question: Have you learned to walk in wisdom?

3) Witness Graciously

Finally, we are to let our “speech” be “gracious” (Colossians 4:6). Ps Kok Guan exhorts us to build others up with our tongues. Even when correcting others, we are to do so graciously. Our conduct should reflect the grace of God.

Our speech should also be “seasoned with salt.” In this context, salt is a metaphor for adding taste and flavour to our conversations. When others ask about our faith, we should be ready to respond. Ps Kok Guan offers three practical handles to do so effectively.

- **Love the person:** Seek the best for the person.
- **Listen to him/her:** Listen to their needs instead of focusing on only what you want to share.
- **Be led by the Spirit:** Ask the Holy Spirit for the wisdom on how to answer their questions.

Ps Kok Guan elaborates that these are done as a team effort. In Colossians 4:7-9, Paul mentioned several other names, i.e. Tychicus and Onesimus. Ps Kok Guan also exemplified this point with a story of David Livingstone, a missionary in Africa.

Application question: Who can you share the gospel of Jesus Christ with today?

CONCLUSION

In closing, Ps Kok Guan led us to look at the last verse – Colossians 4:18. “Remember my chains” reminds us that the journey might not be easy, but “grace (will) be with you.” The grace of God would be sufficient for us to share the Gospel to others.

QUESTIONS

1. Col 4:2 reminds us to pray *watchfully* and *thankfully*. What do you watch out for? How is your current prayer life?

2. Col 4:5 reminds us to walk wisely, making the most of every opportunity. Where can we get wisdom from? Do you have any role models whom you look up to? How has their testimonies left an impact on you? Describe the characteristics of how a person who walks in wisdom is like.

3. Col 4:6 reminds us to witness graciously. How prepared are you to share the gospel and answer everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15)? Share your personal testimony of how you came to know Christ. Keep your sharing to less than 3 minutes.