

Key Passage Study

Colossians 4:5, 6

Key Passage

*(Commit passage to memory & write out things you learn from the passage, not taking anything else into account except what is said in the **key passage** itself).*

1. Walk in wisdom toward those outside of Christ. Paul is saying to walk in prudence and have a proper and devout interaction with those who have not obeyed the gospel. We ought to exercise discretion.
2. This shows that those in the church are on the “inside.”
3. We are to redeem the time or as the NASB says, “Making the most of the opportunity.” It is buying up the opportunities that come our way with outsiders. This is not a specific period of time but is buying up every opportunity offered by time.
4. Our speech is to always be with grace, seasoned with salt. Certainly we should have good taste in the things that we say. We ought to consider the things that we say to others and see if we would like others to use the same of us.
5. We ought to seek to know how to answer each person.

Context

(Study context, verses before and after that relate to key passage, and write out what you learn from the context that helps you to properly understand the key passage).

1. It seems that verses 5-6 serves as its own immediate context and that is in the context of conduct towards outsiders. The extended context goes all the way back to 3:1 where Paul teaches practical lessons for living as a Christian, characteristics of the new man in Christ, the Christian home and roles of father, mother, children, slaves and masters, but is not really directed to “outsiders” so much.
2. Paul speaks a great deal about our walk as Christians in the book of Colossians (1:9-11; 2:6, 7; 3:7)

Cross References

(Find and study cross references and write out how they relate to the key passage).

1. “Walk in wisdom” see Philippians 1:27
2. “Toward those who are outside” see 1 Corinthians 5:12, 13; 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12; 1 Timothy 3:7; 1 Corinthians 10:32, 33; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:15; 3:1, 16. We were once outside of Christ (see Col. 1:21, 22).
3. “Redeeming the time” see Ephesians 5:15, 16; Psalm 90:9-12; Gal. 6:10 “opportunity”.
4. “Speech” see Ephesians 4:15, 29-32; 5:4; Matthew 12:36; James 3:2; 9-10; Col. 3:9; Titus 2:1, 8 The message may be spoken graciously, but not always received graciously. Jesus infuriated some, even though he was gracious (Lk. 4:22-30). Sometimes if people turn away from the truth, the scapegoat for their sins becomes the preacher but in reality, they are the guilty ones.
5. “Know how you ought to answer each one” see 1 Peter 3:15.

Application

(Write out how the key passage, with an understanding of the context and cross references, applies for us today).

1. Be careful how you act towards others. Think before you speak.
2. Our religion ought to make others inquisitive of the faith.