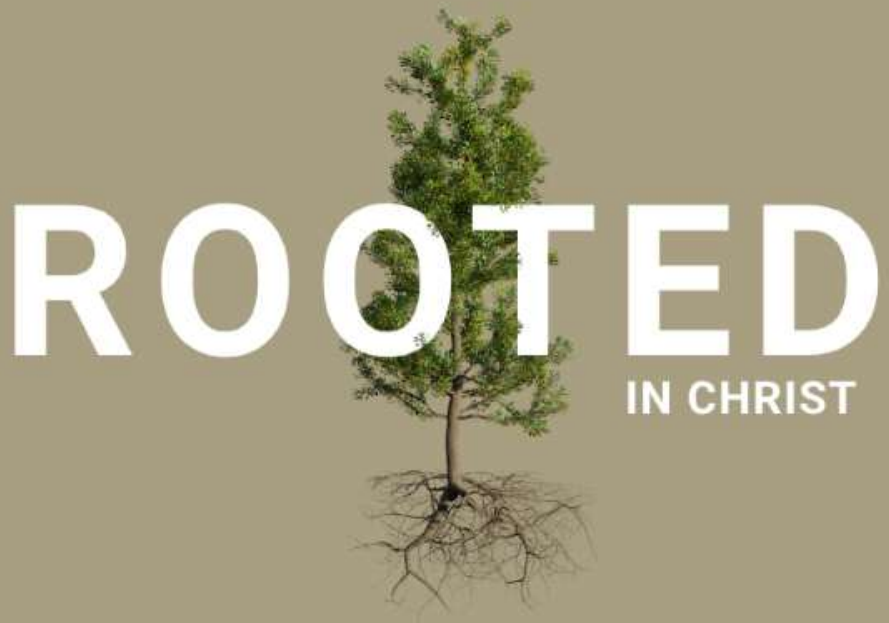


Prayer & Proclamation

Colossians 4:2-6

Colossians 4:2-6

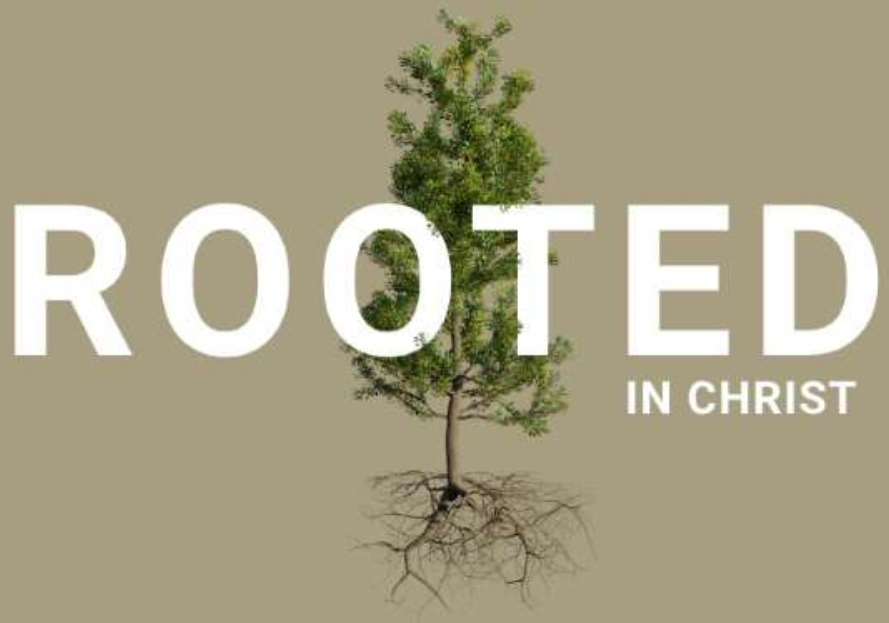
ROOTED IN CHRIST

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 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. 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.” (ESV)

Passage Divides Nicely

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- **Prayer**—speaking to God about others (4:2-4)
- **Proclamation** (evangelism)—speaking to others about God (4:5-6)



Prayer: Speaking to God About Others

"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving" (2)

How Are We To Pray?

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- **Pray with devotion**
  - "Continue steadfastly" (proskartereō)
    - Root (kartereō): to adhere firmly, not let go, endure, persevere.
    - Intensified by the preposition (pros).
  - Taken together it means: to be courageously persistent or doggedly determined in your prayer life

1 Thessalonians 5:17

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Pray without ceasing” (ESV)

Ephesians 6:18

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Praying at all times ... with all prayer and supplication ... with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” (ESV)

Luke 18:1-7

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart … there was a widow … who kept coming to him with the pleas … for a while he refused … but the widow beat him down by her continual coming … And the Lord said … Will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?”

(ESV)

How Are We To Pray?

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Pray with devotion
- **Pray with watchfulness**
  - Being watchful. Literally, “constantly watching.”

Nehemiah 4:10, 14

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall … But do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome.” (ESV)

Matthew 26:41

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (ESV)

How Are We To Pray?

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- Pray with devotion
- Pray with watchfulness
- **Pray with thankfulness**
  - **A**doration
  - **C**onfession
  - **T**hanksgiving
  - **S**upplIication

Colossians One

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- **1:3**—"We always thank God … when we pray for you."
- **1:12**—"Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints." (ESV)

Colossians Two

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- **2:7**—“Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith … abounding in thanksgiving.” (ESV)

Colossians Three

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- **3:15—**“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts … and be thankful.” (ESV)

Colossians Four

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- **4:2**—“Continue steadfastly in prayer… with thanksgiving.” (ESV)

What Are We To Pray For?

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- **We are to pray for open doors**

  “Pray for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ … ”

  (Col 4:3, ESV)

Philippians 1:12-13

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.” (ESV)

What Are We To Pray For?

ROOTED IN CHRIST

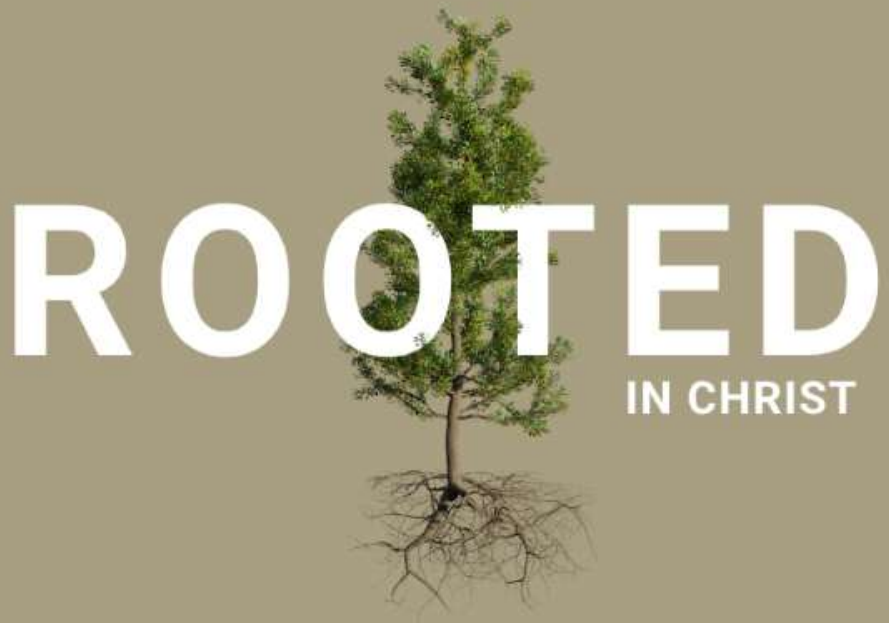
- We are to pray for open doors
- **We are to pray that God will use our circumstances for his good.**

What Are We To Pray For?

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- We are to pray for open doors
- We are to pray that God will use our circumstances for his good.
- **We are to pray for clarity**

  “Pray … that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.” (Col 4:4, ESV)



Proclamation:
Speaking to Others About God

"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" (5-6)

How to Act

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- **We are to be wise**

  “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders” (Col 4:5, ESV)

How to Act

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- We need to be wise
- **We need to be available**

  "Making the best use of the time" (Col 4:5, ESV)

  Exagorazō—a business term that literally means "to buy up." It is the picture of an item being on sale and buying all you can afford because the price is so good.

How to Act

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- We are to be wise
- We are to be available
- **We are to be gracious**

  “Let your speech always be gracious”

  (Col 4:6, ESV)

Luke 4:22

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth.” (ESV)

How to Act

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- We are to be wise
- We are to be available
- We are to be gracious
- **Our words are to be appetizing**

  "Seasoned with salt …" (Col 4:6, ESV)

How to Act

ROOTED IN CHRIST

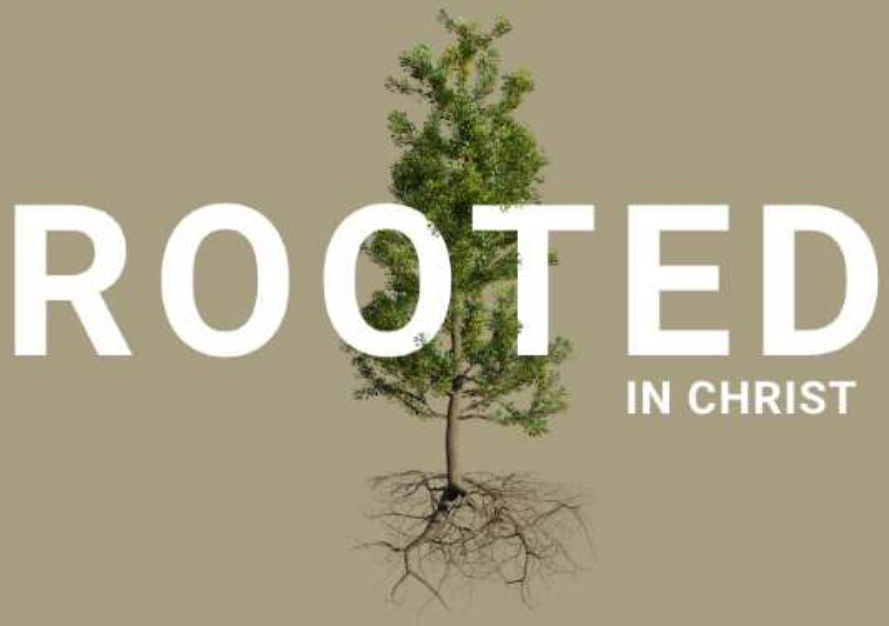
- We are to be wise
- We are to be available
- We are to be gracious
- Our words are to be appetizing
- **We are to be ready**

  “So that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Col 4:6, ESV)

1 Peter 3:15

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“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.” (ESV)



Prayer & Proclamation

May God open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ

Next Steps

ROOTED IN CHRIST

- I will strive to pray with courageous persistence and watchfulness for:
  - My church
  - My family
  - My friends
  - My neighbors
  - My country
  - _____
- I will live out my faith in a manner which exemplifies Christ, buying up the opportunity to speak on his behalf.