

Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV1984)

Further Instructions

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Good Morning My Sisters and Brothers in Christ and good morning to those who do not yet know Christ as their personal Savior. I greet you this morning with the good news that God Is.

God is the joy and the strength of my life,
Removes all pain, misery and strife,
He promised to keep me, never to leave me,
He'll Never, Never fall short of His Word

If you have had an experience with God this week then you ought to want to praise Him. You ought to want to say Thank You Jesus. You ought to want make some noise for Jesus.

This morning we look again at Paul's letter to the church at Colosse. In the selection for our study this morning Paul is giving final instructions before closing his letter. His first instruction is to pray. Pray for those in jail. Pray for an opportunity to share God's message. Pray that Paul might be able to share the mystery of Jesus the Christ clearly. Pray! The second instruction in the passage is to be wise in the way you treat outsiders. Paul says make the most of every opportunity to show them Jesus. Let your conversation always be full of grace, seasoned with salt.

The Adult Bible Study classes have spent a lot of time studying prayer. We have looked at different authors and their understanding of prayer and after Easter we will return to HANDLE WITH PRAYER by Charles Stanley for six more classes. There is always more to learn about prayer, more to learn about how to be in conversation with God. But that is not the message I heard for this morning. I heard a message about SALT.

I ask you to pray with me and for me as I raise this 2-part question:

**WHAT KIND OF SALT ARE YOU? and
ARE YOU SEASONING ANYBODY?**

SHALL WE PRAY!

Father, we your people come this morning in need of another Word from you. During the course of the week the Word from last Sunday has begun to dry up. We come this morning asking you to fill our cups until they overflow. Give us a Word that will teach, sustain and transform. Help us to be the salt of the earth as your Son called us to be.¹ Now Father I ask that you use me to bring that Word this morning. Fill me with your Spirit. Give me your Words when my words fail. Help me to be the seasoning for your people. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. AMEN and AMEN.

**WHAT KIND OF SALT ARE YOU? and
ARE YOU SEASONING ANYBODY?**

Let us begin by working with the first question **“WHAT KIND OF SALT ARE YOU?”** As I considered how to explain that God needed different kinds of salt I remembered how Paul explained it to the church at Corinth:

20 *To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.*

21 *To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law.*

22 *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. (1 Corinthians 9:20-22 NIV)*

Although there are many different kinds of salt in fact there are about 100 varieties of salt I want to focus on only six this morning.

¹ Matthew 5:13

Christians ought to act as **Kosher Salt:**
available from the earth or the sea

- able to season anything from a pork roast to popcorn
- easy to find in upscale places and the local discount store
- not only as a seasoning but a curing and preservative

Christians ought to act like **Crystalline Sea Salt:**
available from Portugal to Maine – California to the Pacific Rim

- wherever we are we ought to share God's Word
- able to season fresh salad and a salmon filet
- add pungent burst of flavor to just cooked foods

Christians ought to act like **Flaked Sea Salt**
available from the Essex Coast of England

- ought to know where we come from
- add a briny flavor to vegetables and shellfish
- hard to find but worth the search

Sometimes God needs some Christians who are **Fleur de Sel**
a special occasion table salt found in the salt ponds of France

- melts slowly on the tongue
- adds a bit of saltiness to fresh tomatoes or melon
- only takes a pinch to make a difference

Sometimes God needs some plain old **Rock Salt**
has two special purposes

- used in the making of ice cream
- used to defrost/deice sidewalks and drive ways
- large, chunky, not uniform in shape, often gray in color
- available in home store, hardware and grocery stores

Finally sometimes God needs **Pickling Salt**
100% pure sodium chloride
can brine a pickle or a turkey
just a small amount makes a difference
hard to find in cities

Did you notice that although each salt had a different purpose it had things in common:

- it has value and adds value
- it had to touch something to make a difference
- it could not work alone
- different amounts were needed basis the desired results

KOSHER SALT
CRYSTALLINE SEA SALT
FLAKED SEA SALT
FLEUR de SAL
ROCK SALT
PICKLING SALT

ARE YOU SEASONING ANYBODY?
still on the shelf?
picky about the food you season
waiting for somebody to buy you and bring you home

Well
you came from heaven to earth
you would not come down from the cross
you paid it all
I have been bought and paid with your blood

all you ask me to do is be salt

First, Christians Like Salt Are Of Infinite Value.
Second, Christians Like Salt Act As A Preservative.
Third, Christians Like Salt Are to Promote Thirst.
Fourth, Christians Like Salt Can Lose Their Usefulness
Fifth, Christians Like Salt Must Have Contact To Have An
Influence!

To be salt, we do not have to be spectacular
To be salt, we do not have to be sensational
To be salt, we do not have to be successful
(by the world's standards)
To be salt, we just have to effect our little corner of the
world.²

² SERMONCENTRAL.COM ACCESSED 02.23.13