

Title: “The Right Actions of an Apologist”

Introduction: One could argue that the messenger is the message, which is to say, how one acts before the skeptics, unbelievers, and brethren determines what and how the message is received. The apostle Paul thought this was important enough to give instruction on how the brethren should conduct themselves before those they are trying to win to Christ and the believers they are ministering to. An example of an apologist which Paul referenced as one conducting himself in such a manner was Tychicus. An apologist, Paul instructed, should be prayed up for the spiritual battle in which is being fought. Paul gave other instruction that would result in God’s favor to include that an apologist to speak in a way that would create an atmosphere of favor with those whom the apologist is addressing.

Propositional Question: If Paul took the time to instruct on the speech and conduct of an apologist, ought not every believer consider their conduct relative to those they minister to?

Text: Colossians 4:1-7 “Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:”

CONTEXT:

Who: Paul was the human author of the book of Colossians.

What: Paul instructed the Colossian Christians how to act as an apologist.

Where: The church at Colossi.

When: The epistle of Colossians was written in 62 AD.

How: Paul delivered his message in the church at Colossi.

INTERPRETATION:

Key theme: Spiritual preparation as an apologist. Be fare in your dealings with those who work for you. Paul's instruction to the Colossian believer's on the proper conduct of an apologist while dealing with the skeptics and saints.

Key words: Master, prayer, thanksgiving, Christ, wisdom, speech, answer, Tychicus, brother, faithful, fellowservant, Lord.

Summary of the text: Paul begin addressing Christian's financial ethics relative to paying ones employees. Christians should not be getting wealthy off the backs of those they employ. Paul's recipe for spiritual warfare and success is to be continually in prayer and maintain a thankful heart attitude. Paul's admonition is that the Colossi believers would be in prayer for the Lord to open doors of opportunity of service to Him. Paul encourages them to have a sense of urgency about the Gospel. As an apologist for Christ and His Gospel Paul argues that one must have speech and conduct that is worthy of the task of arguing for Christ. This speech must be palatable so that the message of the Gospel maybe more easily received by ones hearers. Paul gave a shining example of one with godly and effective speech and conduct when he reference Tychicus as a faithful minister and fellowservant of the Lord. Paul knew that his testimony was powerful to persuade others to conduct their lives and ministries in order to give greater glory to God.

Summary of the passage: Paul was the chief trainer to teach these new Christians how to put into practice the doctrine which was all new to them, as Christianity was a relatively new movement in the first century. Here, Paul's job was to mentor these Christians to be effective and productive as apologists for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a side note Paul mentioned that he is in the bonds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as they are, which is to remind the Colossians that they are all indebted to Jesus Christ.

Summary of the main verse: Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Paul was helping the new Christians to adapt their speech and actions to conform to the example of the manner of Christ.

APPLICATION:

Original audience: The Christians at the church at Colossi.

To myself: A reminder to maintain speech that is seasoned with godly saltiness.

To family: Conduct ones speech and manner to live the Gospel in front of one's family.

To church: Teach doctrine, than add training Christians how to act in the ministry.

My job: Christian should continually be circumspect how they conduct their Christian lives.

To society: Christians must keep a presents of mind that world watches action more than listens.