

Title: Thanks BE Giving

Text: Colossians 4:2-18

Target: *“Gratitude makes sense of your past, brings peace for today, and creates vision for tomorrow.”* Melody Beattie

- I. **Pray Diligently:** *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving”* (4:2)
 - A. **Approach God Boldly:** *“continue steadfastly”* (4:2a) *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16)
 - B. **Believe for it Expectantly:** *“watchful in it with thanksgiving”* (4:2b)
 - C. **Create a Divine Opportunity:** *“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—”* (4:3)
 - D. **Declare Salvation Clearly:** *“that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.”* (4:4)

- II. **Live Missionally:** *“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time”* (Vs. 5)
 - A. **Carry yourself Cautiously:** *“Walk in wisdom”* (4:5a)
 - B. **Seize Moments with Intentionality:** *“making the best use of the time”* (4:5b)
 - C. **Words Seasoned Graciously:** *“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, (4:6a)*
 - D. **Lead people to Jesus Personally:** *“so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”* (4:6b)

- III. **Thank Personally:** *“I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.”* (4:18)
 - A. **Tychicus (faithful servant)** - Served Paul while in Prison (4:7-8)
 - B. **Onesimus (one of your number)** - Runaway slave led to Christ by Paul. (4:9)
 - C. **Aristarchus (fellow prisoner)** - Gave up his own freedom to serve Paul. (4:10a)
 - D. **Mark (welcome him)** - Reinstated by Paul after quitting earlier on Paul. (4:10b)
 - E. **Justus (encouragement)** - Brought comfort to Paul by standing with him. (4:11)
 - F. **Epaphras (deep concern for you)** - Labored lovingly for the church of Colossae as their pastor. (4:12)
 - G. **Luke (beloved physician)** - cared for Paul's medical needs. (4:14) *Writes Luke and Acts.
 - H. **Demas (deserted Paul)** - Fell away unto a worldly lifestyle (4:14b, 2 Tim. 4:9-10)
 - I. **Nympha (opened her home)** - Paul thanks for sharing her resources. (4:15)
 - J. **Archippus (speaks blessing over)** - *“See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”* (4:17)

Takeaway: Never let the things that you want tomorrow to cause you not to be grateful for what you have today.