



Dear intercessor Brothers and Sisters in Europe,

We are living in a time of spiritual change in the Church. It is also a time of mobilisation of intercessors and prayer ministries. The most effective biblical response to this is found in the life of Apostle Paul. While in investigative detention, he was not primarily concerned with his personal situation, but was working to fulfil the Great Commission. In Colossians 4, we find a brief sketch of his request for prayer support from the churches that carried out the mission work of the apostle and his co-workers, the planting of new churches. Later, they would inspire the New Testament writings of Evangelists Mark, Luke and Apostle Paul. (Note: nearly 2/3 of the New Testament chapters were written by the three of them, by the Holy Spirit.)

Let us take heart from the example of the Colossian prayer warriors - there may be prayer requests besides our own that may be answered by the Lord in the distant future!

"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 towards 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." Colossians 4:2-6.

In the light of this, let us observe the three moments of the above passage and apply them to our ministry.

First we read about us, the preparation of those who pray. We must advance at the level of personal spiritual strength and quality: **"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."** (v.2) In the Greek language, the content of prayer here is a demanding prayer that means **being ready and always there. Watchfulness = *gregorountes***, vigilance is derived from a similar root word as the commonly known *gregorian* - a praising, worshipful lifestyle led by the Holy Spirit. And the meaning of *eucharistia* = **thanksgiving**, a celebration of Christ's victory at Calvary, is brought to its full meaning in the fellowship of the Holy Communion. He, Jesus, is our only intercessor in the New Testament! (1Tim 2:5) Thus, our intercession can only be effective if and to the extent that we carry out this service in identification with Him, living in Him, in harmony with Him!

Secondly, the apostle also defines the content of intercession. **"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."** (v.3-4) What he asks, he asks for each preacher. At the time of the writing of this letter, heresies had also come into Colosse. The revelation from God was mixed with the current and fashionable spiritual trends. He therefore begins his series of prayer requests for all worshipers and ministers with this. **Unavoidable:** preachers of the Word must be under the authority of God! The door of the New Testament WORD opens from the inside out. Its opening depends on the Lord alone. This prayer request begins with reverence for God and godliness, and continues with obedient speaking of the mystery of Christ! In this area, life or death; salvation or condemnation is at stake! Paul even subordinates the personal matter of his imprisonment to this. **"Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."**

Thirdly, he speaks of the fulfilment of the missionary calling. **"Be wise in the way you act towards 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."** (v.5-6). This source of wisdom is not theoretical, but life wisdom with which one can adjust and advise others in the circumstances and challenges of life on earth. This wisdom is an effective aid to mission. Asking for it is an important prayer topic. The Lord himself encourages it. Seeing and taking advantage of every opportunity is equally important. There is a price to be paid for always doing what the Lord has called us to do in a timely manner and in harmony with the Lord.

The apostle's advice was worth taking in Colosse, and it is worth taking for us: **"Let your speech always be kind, seasoned with salt, so that you may be able to answer everyone correctly."** (v.6)

Prayer topics

- May the Holy Spirit teach all intercessors to fulfill this ministry in identification with Jesus Christ.
- May our Heavenly Father open the door of the Word of God to us. May we always proclaim what we have to say with calling people to everlasting life.
- Asking for heavenly wisdom, for a suitable time, to speak the Gospel authentically and effectively to outsiders: may the door of grace be opened to converts.
- Let prayer groups be established in every nation, and where they exist, let them be strengthened, to intercede effectively for the coming great harvest, until its completion, until the coming of the Lord.

Update:

Finnish politician Päivi Räsänen was in court again last week accused of "hate speech" for expressing her views as a Christian in a tweet, a 2004 pamphlet and a 2019 radio interview.

"I'm hopeful that all these charges will be acquitted. It's a very important verdict for freedom of speech and of religion in Finland, and also has consequences across Europe, but I'm hopeful for a good result," said Räsänen upon leaving the court.

The court is expected to deliver a verdict by November 30th.

Please keep praying



Additional Prayer Points:-

1. Pray for those people and communities deeply affected by wildfires during the summer, or by torrential rain and flash floods this week.
2. Pray for the almost 1 million homeless people across Europe, a crisis which is getting worse in most countries, and for governments to find better solutions to housing problems.

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