

1 **Church,**

In light of all that has consumed our time and attention,
in light of all that has drained our energies,

in light of the ways in which we have become isolated and divided...

In light of the current political crises dividing a nation one family at a time, and in light of the current crises surrounding the pandemic polarizing our loyalties and alliances...

How then shall we live?

2 **First things first:**

God is not surprised by any of this, so He is not scrambling for addendums to His holy word...

The Great Commandment has not changed, nor has the second. God and His kingdom take precedence over the things of earth. We must love our neighbor.

The Great Commission is still in effect. Our mission and ministry must prioritize reaching and discipling those who are currently apart from God

3 **Just Doin' My Job!**

Colossians 4:2-6

4 **Vs. 2**

- Devote yourself to prayer (1 Thess. 5:17)

"To be courageously persistent"

"To hold fast and not let go"

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- Be watchful (1 Peter 5:8)

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- Be thankful. Maintain a focus on God's faithfulness

5 **Vs. 3**

Note the clarity of Paul's mission focus:

That God may open a door for our message.

That we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.

Consider Acts 20:24

Eph. 6:19-20

6 **Vs. 4**

Note the point of his prayer concern

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What consumes our prayer time?

How many times do we get stuck in "Bless me. Watch over me. Protect me. Give me." ?

7 **Vs. 5**

We must pay attention to our witness. Outsiders are watching, and this present scuffle – however

urgent - dare not alienate us from our mission field.

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Be a steward of opportunity to share the hope we have in Christ.

What makes this such an opportune time?

8 **Vs. 6**

Note the tone of your conversations with outsiders. Compare and contrast with what is described here.

Eph. 4:29-31

Seasoned with salt – Flavors and purifies

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Is it possible that we are limiting opportunities to share because we have made enemies of our mission field over politics and pandemics?