



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, 09/25/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 4:5**

**TITLE: The Secret to Easy Outreach**

“Why would I want to be a Christian? You guys aren’t really different than anyone else. That is except for giving up an opportunity to sleep in on Sundays.”

This is an unfortunate sentiment by many people today. There seems to be a disconnect between what people say they believe and how they live. But should this be the case? Should we be different in how we live? Well, we should, and for a very tangible reason.

What is that reason? Paul tells us in Colossians 4:5.

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.”

Paul has been talking to the Colossian church about our new nature and how we live it in the home, in the marketplace, and even in our communication with God. Now, Paul wants us to put on the new nature in outreach.

Paul says, “Live wisely among those who are not believers.” I think today, many Christians are concerned with being liked, being nice, being inclusive, and being relevant but not being wise. Wisdom is the ability to live out what we know to be true. Well, many of us live like fools. We consume the same TV shows and movies as everyone in the culture. We drink as much alcohol and do as much harm to our bodies as the college student at a frat party. We spend money freely with little investment into the kingdom. In other words, we aren’t living with wisdom. And guess what, it hurts our testimony. It tarnishes the reputation of the Gospel. Because the Gospel is a Gospel of reconciliation with God and freedom from our chains to sin.

Likewise, we can be so pious in our behavior we become legalists or the judge himself. We cannot and should not expect non-believers to live like they are Christians. It does more harm than good when we treat them like they should.

Paul challenges us to live wisely in the culture so that we might make the most of every opportunity. Tomorrow is not promised to me. It’s not promised to you. It’s not promised to your neighbor or coworker. Therefore we are not promised any do-overs. That is why we must live wisely because each moment is the only one we have.

I wish I had lived this intentionally my whole life. I know my behavior has added more offense to the Gospel or diminished the power of the Gospel because I failed to live out the new nature in me. There is a better way to live. That is with godly wisdom each and every moment.

So here's my challenge for you today: let Christ be seen in your words and in your actions around everyone. Perhaps it's being more patient with your neighbor who drives you crazy. Maybe it's being a generous tipper at the restaurant. Could you pray for that hurting person at the clinic or hospital? Is it refraining from gossip at work or from participating in the weekend bar crawl.

God saves us from sin and to life to the fullest. That life to the fullest is attractive to the lost. It's a life free from regret. That's a life we can have. And that's the life the world wants.