

## Speaking Of Truth



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- 1. How would you define persecution?
- 2. Are Christians in America (USA) being persecuted because they are Christians or because they are followers of Jesus Christ?
- 3. Are there circumstances in your life where you are being / have been persecuted for your faith? How are you responding / have you responded?
- 4. Do you think a "fear of being persecuted" is why followers of Jesus might hesitate to share their faith (give personal testimony of the Gospel / what it means to trust Jesus as your Savior)? If so, why? If not, why might followers of Jesus hesitate to share their faith?
- 5. Are there circumstances in your life where you would just simply hesitate to share your faith?
- 6. Have you ever regretted not sharing your faith? Have you ever been grateful that you did?

## Stay Focused In Prayer (verses 2-4)

- 7. What does Paul mean by: "Continue steadfastly in prayer"? "being watchful in it"? "with thanksgiving"?
- 8. What would that look like for you?
- 9. Why was Paul in prison?
- 10. Bottom line (verses 3 & 4)—what is Paul requesting prayer for and why?
- 11. What is Paul encouraging the Colossians (and us) to focus on in our prayers? Why?
- 12. Thinking about your answers to questions 7 to 11, what adjustments might you need to make while praying?

## Stay Focused In Conduct (verses 5,6)

- 13. Who are the "outsiders"?
- 14. What do you think most "outsider's" impression of the church is? Is this justified?
- 15. What is wisdom? How do we gain wisdom? How do we "walk in wisdom"?
- 16. How do we "walk in wisdom toward outsiders"? What do we need to know about "outsiders" in order to walk this way? How might we gain this knowledge?
- 17. What do we need to "know" in order "to answer each person"? What "answer" is Paul talking about?
- 18. Do you ever feel like you don't "know" enough (that you are inadequate) to share your faith?
- 19. How might what Paul writes here (4:2-6) encourage you to share your faith?