

Colossians 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

Analysis

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds.

Paul requests personal prayer support. "Praying also for us" (proseuchomenoi hama kai peri hēmōn, προσευχόμενοι ἅμα καὶ περὶ ἡμῶν) asks Colossians to intercede for Paul's missionary team. Despite imprisonment, Paul prioritizes gospel advance, not personal comfort or release.

"That God would open unto us a door of utterance" (hina ho theos anoixē hēmin thyran tou logou, ἵνα ὁ θεὸς ἀνοίξῃ ἡμῖν θύραν τοῦ λόγου) requests opportunity to proclaim the gospel. "To speak the mystery of Christ" (lalēsai to mystērion tou Christou, λαλῆσαι τὸ μυστήριον τοῦ Χριστοῦ) identifies message: Christ's person and work, especially Gentile inclusion. "For which I am also in bonds" (di' ho kai dedemai, δι' ὃ καὶ δέδεμαι) acknowledges his imprisonment's cause—proclaiming Christ brought persecution, yet Paul prioritizes continued witness over safety.

Historical Context

Paul wrote from Roman imprisonment, likely chained to guards (Acts 28:16, 20). Despite restricted freedom, he continued preaching to visitors and guards (Philippians 1:12-14). His prayer request—not for release but for opportunity—demonstrates missionary passion transcending circumstances. Early Christianity

spread partly through imprisoned believers witnessing to guards, fellow prisoners, and visitors, turning prisons into unlikely mission fields.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. For whom do you pray regularly—personal concerns or gospel workers needing prayer support?
2. How do you respond to limitations—accepting defeat or seeking opportunities within constraints?
3. What would change if your primary prayer was for gospel advancement rather than personal comfort?

Interlinear Text

προσευχόμενοι	ἅμα	καὶ	περὶ	ἡμῶν	ἵνα	ὁ	θεὸς
praying	Withal	also	for	us	that	G3588	God
G4336	G260	G2532	G4012	G2257	G2443		G2316
ἀνοίξη	ἡμῖν	θύραν	τοῦ	λόγου	λαλῆσαι	τὸ	
would open	unto us	a door	G3588	of utterance	to speak	G3588	
G455	G2254	G2374		G3056	G2980		
μυστήριον	τοῦ	Χριστοῦ	δι'	ὃ	καὶ	δέδεμαι	
the mystery	G3588	of Christ	for	which	also	I am	
G3466		G5547	G1223	G3739	G2532	G1210	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:27 (References God): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Colossians 1:26 (Parallel theme): Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Ephesians 4:1 (Parallel theme): I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

1 Corinthians 4:1 (References Christ): Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Corinthians 2:12 (References Christ): Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

2 Timothy 2:9 (References God): Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Philippians 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

1 Corinthians 16:9 (Parallel theme): For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Matthew 13:11 (Parallel theme): He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 (Prayer): Brethren, pray for us.