

Sermon Series: Colossians

Sermon Text: Colossians 4:2-4 Devoted, Watchful, Grateful Prayer

God calls you to advance the gospel through prayer.

1) Devoted prayer—“continue steadfastly in prayer”

- a) Devotion to prayer from a heart for God
 - i) Delight in God Himself
 - ii) Desire for God’s glory to be known
 - iii) Desire for God to be worshiped
- b) Devotion to prayer from a heart for God’s Word
 - i) Faith in God’s Truth
 - ii) Hope in God’s Promises
 - iii) Love for God’s Law
- c) Devotion to prayer from a heart for God’s elect
 - i) Pity for the lost
 - ii) Mercy for the fallen
 - iii) Compassion for the estranged
- d) **Application:** Are you devoted to prayer?
 - i) Practical Matters
 - ii) The Heart of the Matter

2) Watchful prayer—“be watchful in it”

- a) On Guard against sin in the camp
- b) On Guard against Satan’s devices
- c) On Guard against the world’s seduction and hostility
- d) **Application:** Are you praying systematically for the purity and peace of the Church and her faithful witness? Are you praying for evangelistic opportunities in our immediate sphere of influence? Are you praying for churches in our presbytery? Are you praying for our RUF ministers, our MTW missionaries, our MTNA missionaries? Are you praying for the persecuted Church? Are you praying for the compromised Church?

3) Grateful prayer—“with thanksgiving”

- a) Thankful for the mission of God
- b) Thankful for the Church
- c) Thankful for the ministry of the Word
- d) **Application:** Replace unbelieving speech with prayers of faith.
 - i) Replace disenchantment with life with Adoration of God
 - ii) Replace self-righteous boasts with Confession to God
 - iii) Replace grumbling and complaining with Thanksgiving to God
 - iv) Replace anxious words with Supplication to God

Doxology: Blessed be the LORD! For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. (Psalm 28:6-7)