

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

Prayer as Mission  
Colossians 4:2-6

Slide 2:

Colossians 4:2-6 (ESV)

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Slide 3:

Paul Knew:

- 1) Jesus had brought new creation into the world, Christ in us the hope of glory
- 2) The power for, and extension of that new life would depend on Jesus
- 3) The best way to be in relationship with that power, to comprehend it, and be shaped by it was through prayer

Slide 4:

Why is it difficult for us to pray:

- 1) We are an affluent culture
- 2) We are an industrial culture

Slide 5:

We view our world as exceedingly makeable

Slide 6:

The Technique of Effective Prayer

- I. Pray Constantly
- II. Pray Open-Eyed
- III. Pray Gratefully

Slide 7:

Prayer is not a way to bring God's attention to our world, it is a way to see that He is already at work in our world.

Slide 8:

The reason to pray constantly is not because God is hard to convince or change, but because we are difficult to convince and change.

Slide 9:

Open-Eyed (Watchful)

1) Look behind at who God has shown Himself to be, and how He works.

Slide 10:

Open-Eyed (Watchful)

2) Look to the present and ask, "what might God be doing right now in our circumstances, in the brokenness of the world?"

Slide 11:

Open-Eyed (Watchful)

3) Look to the future and remember what will happen.

Slide 12:

Old Testament: Lament and Hope

New Testament: Thanksgiving and Hope

Slide 13:

Thanksgiving because:

1) In prayer we are reminded that God is more interested and passionate about restoration than we are.

Slide 14:

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2) In prayer we are reminded that God will accomplish restoration with or without our involvement

Slide 15:

Thanksgiving because:

- 1) In prayer we are reminded that God is more interested and passionate about restoration than we are.
- 2) In prayer we are reminded that God will accomplish restoration with or without our involvement.
- 3) In prayer we are reminded that we have been restored without our accomplishment or initiation.

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

- 1) Read Colossians 4:2-6 as Paul wraps up his encouragement and teaching to the Colossae Church. What do you see in that text? What stands out to you? Encourages you? Confuses you?
- 2) Do you believe in the power and efficacy of prayer? Do you pray constantly? Why do you think that often those two questions are not both true?
- 3) Do you act as if the world is makeable? Why or why not?
- 4) What is the major reason we are asked to pray often and constantly?
- 5) What does it mean to pray with "open eyes?"
- 6) How does prayer move us into thankfulness?
- 7) Prayer and praise