

Devote yourselves to prayer

Colossians 4. Prayer week 7 at Redeemer.

Warmup:

- When someone is said to be ‘devoted’, what does that tend to mean? What are some examples?
- Is devotion mainly a feeling of the heart? A decision of the will? A thought in the mind? A practice in life?

Today as we continue to grow in prayer, our passage is Colossians ch 4, where we are given instruction and example to help us pray.

Pray and read Colossians 4:2-18. [warning v7-17 has lots of names, what matters is not the correct pronunciation, but the content that Paul speaks about concerning these saints.]

1. Any first questions or reactions?

Let’s explore the instruction to pray, by doing some word work with cross references:

‘devote yourselves to prayer’

2. What is the range of meanings for the word ‘devoted’?
Consider these instances where the term/ idea is used: Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42-46, Romans 13:6.

‘being watchful and thankful’

3. What does watchful mean when Jesus uses this idea with Peter in Mark 14:38?
What does it mean when Jesus teaches all disciples to be watchful in Luke 12:35-37?
4. If devotion includes being alert, what does thankful add?

Paul gives us further concerns to be praying.

‘and pray for us’

5. What two prayers are we instructed to pray when we speak of Christ to others? (4:3-4).
Do you tend to pray for one of these more than the other? Why?

‘wisely making the most’

6. Verses 5-6 focus not on prayer but on practice. Which of the instructions here are challenging for you personally: being wise? Making the most? speaking well not harshly? Knowing what to say?

Epaphras sets the example for our prayers in v12.

‘wrestling in prayer’

7. Epaphras wrestling or striving in prayer: what is he concerned about for them?
8. What are the pressures against the church that cause such striving? (does 2:8-10 help?)
9. Colossians 4 is training us to pray. What is a change it trains you to make in your prayers?
Is there a corrective for you? Additional concerns for prayer? An encouragement?