



Christ over Ministry
Colossians 4:2-6
Study Guide

1. Describe what prayer means to you and what it's like for you. Do you pray 10 minutes per day? Do you pray when you get in a pinch? What guides your prayer life?

2. Read Colossians 4:2.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving."

Discuss the three parts of prayer:

- a. Devotion
- b. Alertness
- c. Thankfulness

Give examples of each of these in your prayer life. What does it mean for you to *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thess. 5:17)?

3. Read Colossians 4:3-4.

How do our prayers help align us with God's purposes? How did Paul's imprisonment open doors for the gospel? How might your 'setbacks' be open doors for the gospel? What open doors to share Christ with someone have you seen recently?

4. Read Colossians 4:5-6.

How does prayer help your conduct and speech? How do your conduct and speech affect your ability to share Christ with others? Share an instance when you had to apologize for something you said or did. How can that open a door for the gospel?

Conclusion

Spend a few moments in silent prayer. Ask God to reveal to you whether there is another 'gear' to your prayer life, that would allow you to go further faster. Ask God to show you what it means to be 'devoted to prayer'.

Colossians 4:2-6
Christ over Ministry

Colossians- Christ over All

Ch. 1- Jesus is God

Ch. 2- Jesus over Religion/Philosophy

Ch. 3- Jesus over Transformation

Ch. 4- Jesus over Ministry- Gospel communities lead to missional communities!

Where does ministry begin?

A. Prayer and Me (Colossians 4:2 (NASB))

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving.*"

Westminster Catechism

"Prayer is an *offering up of our desires* unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies."

Parschauer Creed

"Prayer is God-consciousness for the purpose of intimacy and alignment with Him."

Luke 21:36a- "But stay awake at all times praying..."

Acts 1:14- "...with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer."

1 Thess. 5:17- "Pray without ceasing."

A. Prayer and Me (Colossians 4:2 (NASB))

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving.*"

2 Corinthians 4:18

"Fix your eyes, not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporal, but what is unseen is eternal."

A. Prayer and Me (Colossians 4:2 (NASB))

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving.*"

James 4:2b

"You do not have, because you do not ask."

James 4:3

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

2. Prayer Beyond Me (Colossians 4:3-4)

³praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴that I may make it clear in the way that I ought to proclaim *it*.

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Philippians 1:13

"So that my bonds or my chains in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places..."

C. Prayer and Conduct (Colossians 4:5-6)

⁵Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶Your speech *must* always *be* with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Bobby

"Prayer is God-consciousness for the purpose of intimacy and alignment with Him."