

## Prayer: Talking to the Lord About People Colossians 4:2-6

### INTRODUCTION

On this first Sunday of the year, I want to direct our attention to **two** new year necessities...two emphases that I'd like for you to keep in mind this year.

**Please turn in your Bible to** Colossians 4:2-6.

Paul is writing to the church in Colossae (ancient city located in modern day Turkey). Because it was on a trade route, it was full of different religious influences. In other words, **Christians were in the minority**, and there were many competing worldviews and religious systems.

**Paul has just finished talking about how the gospel affects many of our different relationships.** In the passage we just read, he begins to talk about how to relate to outsiders, how to be on mission. He teaches us two actions that we need to take. Neither of them is extraordinary. Both of them are actions that every single one of us can take.

***For this morning, we will consider the first of the two new year necessities, namely...***

I. \_\_\_\_\_ : talking to the \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_

(4:2-4)

This immediately reminds us that the subject at hand is prayer. ***What is Prayer?*** The simple answer is this: ***prayer is talking with God.*** We pray when we open our heart to the Almighty. **True prayer is honest, humble and personal.**

***And why should we pray?***

- ***It is a great \_\_\_\_\_***
  
- ***The Christian life is \_\_\_\_\_***
  
- ***Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_ to sin in our lives***
  
- ***Prayer makes a \_\_\_\_\_-***

Prayer can give the believer a taste of God's glory. For as he learns to rest in the Lord's might, to cast his cares upon the Lord, and to call upon God to do what no other can do. Those who know Christ are called upon to pray, even commanded to pray. For through the means of prayer, God has chosen to grant the needs facing His people in daily life.

***And this is what we see in the verses before us...please note...***

**A. Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ hard work (4:2a)**

**B. Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ vigilance (4:2b)**

**C. Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ thanksgiving (4:2c)**

**D. Prayer is \_\_\_\_\_ (4:3-4)**

**1. A door of \_\_\_\_\_**

**2. A door of \_\_\_\_\_**

## **CONCLUSION**

What can we take with us this morning? There are two big dangers when hearing a message on prayer.

*First*, we can let our minds run wild on the enormity of prayer and world needs, becoming so overwhelmed that we do nothing. *Second*, we can have good intentions to develop a discipline of prayer, but never start.

We must move from here resolved to pray. So, to that end, let me give you some **suggestions**.

- 1) **Set aside a \_\_\_\_\_ for prayer.**
  
- 2) **\_\_\_\_\_ your life with the Father.**
  
- 3) **Use the \_\_\_\_\_ as a starting point.**
  
- 4) **\_\_\_\_\_ a prayer list.**
  
- 5) **Take time to notice God's \_\_\_\_\_ to prayer.**

What I desire most of all today is not that you feel guilty about your lack of a prayer life. I want you to feel hungry for a greater prayer life. I don't want to "beat you up", I want to "spur you on." **I want you to come to see prayer not as a duty but as a privilege.** I want you to pray not because of our battle with the Devil, or because of the pain of those around you. **I want you to pray because of the sweetness that comes from spending time with the Father.**