

### iii. The Psalmist

*Gospel transformation of the world begins in the closet of our inability and will move the the corner of every street as pay attention to prayer, stay awake in prayer, and pray aware of the Gospel.*

#### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- How do you think Colossians 4:2 (“*Devote yourselves to prayer...*”) is connected to what precedes it?
- Why is it so essential that we be devoted to prayer?
- Why is prayer **not** like going to the gym working out?
- How might Col. 4:2 remind us of Jesus stressing the importance of prayer in Matthew 26:41 to the disciples?
- Why is giving thanks in prayer so important to keep our praying Gospel informed?
- Are you tempted to “grovel” in prayer before God instead of approaching the throne of grace for help with confidence? What cure might our text offer for this?
- Do you often use the words of others (especially in Scripture) to help you pray, or are you more oriented to praying in your own words? What advantages are there to each of these? What disadvantages?
- What are your favorite Biblical prayers? Share these with each other.

### ***Gospel Transformation: From the Closet and to the Corner (1)***

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**Text: Colossians 4:2-6**

**Intro: Beginning in the Closet**

A. *Paul turns our attention to both our inability and Christ's ability.*

i. *Prayer is not about public performance but personal dependence on God.*

➤ Matthew 6:5-6

ii. *A church must live the Gospel if it will effectively advance it.*

#### **I. Pay Attention to Prayer**

A. *“Devote yourselves to prayer...”*

i. *“occupy yourselves diligently with...” “pay persistent attention....” “persevere in...”*

ii. *The church is a praying community!*

a) Acts 1:14

b) Acts 2:42

- B. This prayer is both a private and a gathered prayer.
  - i. Even when we pray in private, we are praying together.

- C. Why is it essential that we be devoted to prayer?
  - i. We are unable to do *anything*, much less *everything*, apart from vital connection to Christ in prayer.
  - ii. Col. 3:5—4:1

**Hallesby:** *“Your helplessness is the very essence of prayer...the very thing which opens wide the door unto Him and gives Him access to all your needs.”*

*Devotion to prayer testifies to our inability and Christ's ability.*

- D. Prayer requires perseverance.

## II. Stay Awake in Prayer

- A. *Being watchful...* literally, keep awake
  - i. Matthew 26:41/Mark 14:38

- B. Applied to 3:5—4:1

## III. Pray Aware of the Gospel

- A. Self-sufficiency even tries creeping into our praying.
- B. Paul reminds us to pray in the gratitude that flows from Gospel joy. 1:12-14
  - i. Pray with the awareness of what God has done.
  - ii. Pray with your eyes on Christ and His sufficiency!

## Conclusion: Practical Advice in Prayer

- A. Your weakness in prayer is shared: *we do not know how to pray as we should*
- B. Don't try to be original
  - i. Jesus taught us how to pray.
  - ii. Paul taught us how to pray.