

SERMON OUTLINE

3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Sunday Morning 8/17/08

“Prayer and Our Vision”

I. Topic to be Discussed

- A. Prayer is vital to vision
- B. Do We Pray Enough?
 - 1. **I Thessalonians 5:17** - “pray without ceasing”
 - 2. **Colossians 4:2** - “devote yourselves to prayer...”

II. The Importance of Prayer

- A. It Keeps Us Awake: **Colossians 4:2**
 - 1. Common encouragement: **Romans 13:11**; **Ephesians 5:14**; **I Thessalonians 5:6**
 - 2. What prayer does for us
 - a. Keeps us thinking spiritually
 - b. **Matthew 6:9** - “Our Father who is in HEAVEN...”
 - c. It transcends the physical, touches the unseen
 - d. Keeps me focused on my spiritual life
 - 3. Hindrance to prayer: Distracted by the physical life
- B. It Helps Us Recognize God’s Blessings: **Colossians 4:2**
 - 1. With thanksgivings: Make your list to God
 - 2. Note the bookends
 - a. **Colossians 3:15** - Christ rule - be thankful...
 - b. **Colossians 3:17** - Live for Christ - be thankful – in prayer
 - 3. What prayer does for us
 - a. Forces us to realize we are NOTHING w/o God
 - b. Recognize God’s tremendous grace toward us
 - c. Recognize my dependence on God
 - 4. Hindrance to prayer: I’m doing fine on my own
- C. It Helps Us See the Bigger Picture: **Colossians 4:3-4**
 - 1. Pray for others and the work they do for God
 - 2. Seeing the bigger picture
 - a. **I Thessalonians 5:12-15** - Think of these people
 - b. **I Thessalonians 5:17** - it will show in your prayers
 - 3. What prayer does for us
 - a. Takes the focus off of ME and places it on God’s will
 - b. Helps us see the big picture
 - c. Motivates me to do my part in God’s work
 - 4. Hindrance to prayer: What about what I want???