



## FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "Keep Looking Up" Colossians 4:2-18

No. 5036

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Paul introduced the practical section of the letter by encouraging the Colossians to "set (their) minds and hearts above." Now he concludes it with a similar instruction by reminding them of the necessity of prayer. In other words, they were to keep looking up.

### I. Prayer Is a Dynamic.

- A. It moves God to open doors. v. 3
  - 1. God governs with "a degree of elasticity." – O. Hallesby
  - 2. He changes circumstances. Acts 14:27
  - 3. He moves people.
- B. It molds people together.
  - 1. "Pray for us." v. 3
  - 2. Paul's team spirit.
- C. It makes witnesses adequate. vv. 4-5
  - 1. Knowing what to say.
  - 2. Knowing how to say it.
  - 3. Knowing how to behave.
- D. It matures growing believers. v. 12
  - 1. Stand firm.
  - 2. Mature.
  - 3. Assured.

### II. Prayer Is a Declaration.

- A. A declaration of dependence.
  - 1. The arrogance of prayerlessness.
  - 2. The evidence of faithfulness.
- B. A declaration of delight. v. 2
  - 1. The grace of thankfulness.
- C. A declaration of devotion.
  - 1. The majesty of Christ. 3:1
  - 2. The mystery of Christ. v. 3
  - 3. The ministry of Christ. vv. 7, 11-12
- D. A declaration of desire.
  - 1. The desire for enlargement. v. 3
  - 2. The desire for enablement. vv. 4-6
  - 3. The desire for encouragement. v. 8
  - 4. The desire for establishment. v. 11

### III. Prayer Is a Discipline.

- A. The discipline of information.
  - 1. About the will of God. v. 12
  - 2. About the circumstances of people.
  - 3. About the world around you – "alert." v. 2
- B. The discipline of inspiration.
  - 1. Prayer in the Spirit.
  - 2. Relationship to the Spirit.
- C. The discipline of perspiration.
  - 1. Prayer as work. v. 12
- D. The discipline of continuation. v. 2
  - 1. Faith is the geologist who finds oil.
  - 2. Prayer is the drill that makes oil gush.