

Colossians 4:2-18 The Fight: Get prayin' Fintry, 21/5/2006, am

- Family service, part of series on basic discipleship; also Aaron Waterson baptism during service

Get prayin' (1)

- How many different names are mentioned in that passage?
- (11 or 12, depending on whether you include Paul!)
- (plus church in Laodicea and in Hierapolis)

Chocolates

- Bring them out, put them on display, and leave them!
– hoping that people will ask for one during the course of things!!

Story

- Murray Watts and Paul Burbridge are actors, and founders of the Riding Lights Christian drama company; when they were teenagers, they went through a very pious phase! On one occasion they'd missed a bus to an important church meeting. They decided to kneel down by the side of the road, close their eyes and pray that God would send them another bus. As their eyes were shut, another bus went past!! A few years later, someone drew their attention to this passage in Colossians and pointed out that this would never have happened if they had followed the Bible's advice to "watch and pray", or to "keep alert as you pray"!
- But at least they were praying!!
- There is power in prayer!
– reprise power of prayer illustration from last week at DSA...
– what have we all used this morning... you can't see this thing... it travels very fast... it can be very dangerous, and even kill you... it can help us see, and hear, and talk, and even move... not every country in the world has as much of this stuff as we have... you can carry it round with you in special containers
– prayer is like power - power from God that we switch on when we ask God for his help

Wrestling in Prayer

- What can be hard about praying?
– ask the question...
- What is "devoting yourself to prayer" and "wrestling in prayer"?
- Make sure someone has asked for a chocolate!!

Get prayin' (2)

Church Prayer List:

- get flip chart
- draw up a list of people that we might pray for as a church
(ones we do, ones we ought to...)
- What do we and ought we to pray for them?
- **What does the passage encourage us to pray for?**
 - thanksgiving (v.2)
 - open door for the message, so that it can be proclaimed (v.3)
 - that they would be able to proclaim it clearly (4)
 - (which includes: being wise in way act towards outsiders, making the most of opportunities, grace-filled conversation, knowing how to answer everyone...) (v.5,6)
 - stand firm in the will of God (v.12)

Times and places to pray

- Devote yourself to prayer...
 - alone
 - prayer meeting
 - praying together helps - encourages us, teaches us