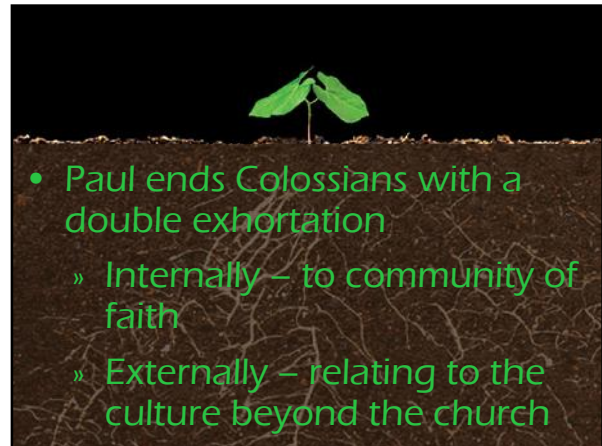
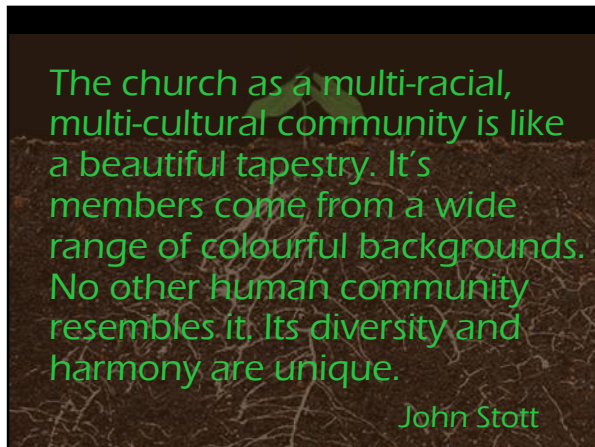


Deeper into Christ

Devoted to God
Colossians 4:2-6

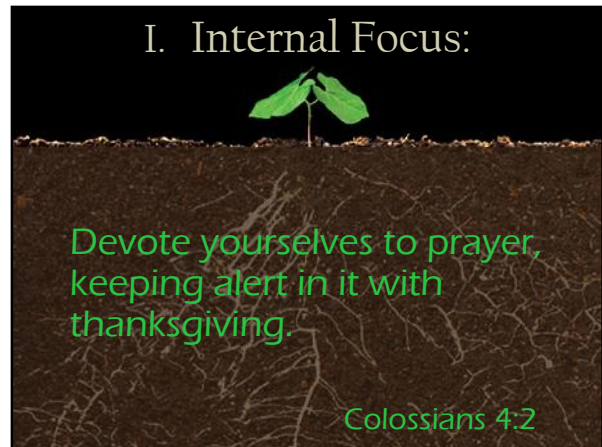


- Paul ends Colossians with a double exhortation
 - » Internally – to community of faith
 - » Externally – relating to the culture beyond the church



The church as a multi-racial, multi-cultural community is like a beautiful tapestry. It's members come from a wide range of colourful backgrounds. No other human community resembles it. Its diversity and harmony are unique.

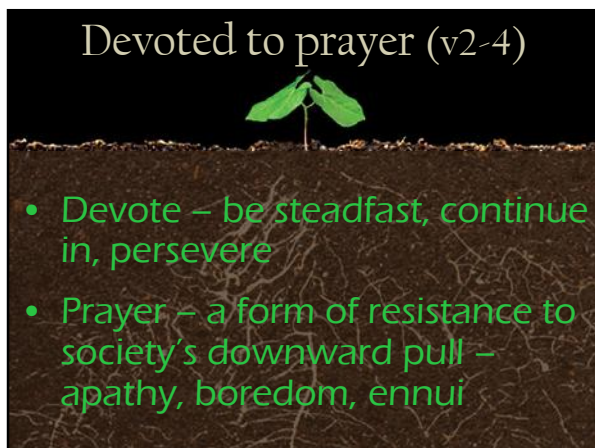
John Stott



I. Internal Focus:

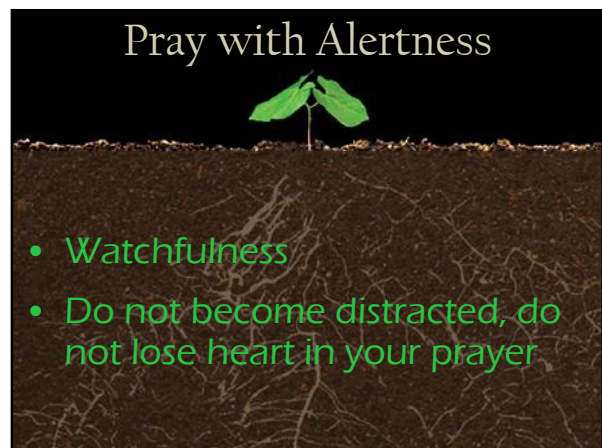
Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2




Devoted to prayer (v2-4)

- Devote – be steadfast, continue in, persevere
- Prayer – a form of resistance to society's downward pull – apathy, boredom, ennui




Pray with Alertness

- Watchfulness
- Do not become distracted, do not lose heart in your prayer




- Luke 9:32 – Disciples are tempted to fall asleep during the transfiguration of Christ ... if they do they miss the glory
- Need to stay awake to see the glory!

A Spirit of Thanksgiving




- Colossians 3:15-16 – “with gratitude in your hearts”
- Pray with the posture of gratitude

“A Door May Open” (v3)




- Paul asks for prayer for himself - that a door may open
- What doors do we want to open?

The Mystery (v3b)



- That the ‘mystery of Christ’ be revealed
- The gospel always contains an aspect of mystery – hence the need for faith


II. External Focus:



Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:5-6

Conduct Yourselves Wisely



- Literally “walk wisely” before those beyond the community of faith

Make the Most of Your Time



- Redeeming the time
- Time = Kairos – time of opportunity

Kairos



Implies a critical epoch, a special opportunity, which may soon pass; "grasp it," says the apostle; "buy it up while it lasts"

F. F Bruce

Let your speech be gracious (v6)



- Careful, gentle speech
- Seasoned with salt (1 Peter 3:15; Matthew 5:13)
- Not cheap words – 'our wordy world'
- take time to listen

Responsible Speech



- We have a responsibility with our words – to be aware of the other person and the import of our words – not to offend
- So that you know how to answer them (v6b)

Holistic Faith



- This is a holistic faith embracing both internal and external dimensions
- Living respectfully with others so they are attracted by the truth and spirit of your life