

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

JUNE 10, 2018

The Gift of Prayer

Tim Jennings

Prayer is one of God's most gracious gifts. In prayer our weary souls are transported from darkened valleys onto the plains of our heavenly home. It allows unworthy sinners to come before the ruler of the universe and call him, "Father." In His presence we can bring our smallest need or our deepest fear, and He listens while all of the resources of heaven are ready to burst into action at His word. Thank God for the privilege of prayer!

Yet, many believers find prayer to be more of a problem than a pleasure because they misunderstand its purpose. Prayer is not about padding our pleasures and erasing our pains. Prayer is wanting to see God's will done in our world. Jesus aimed His prayer with these words, *"Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"* (Matt. 6:10).

Many of our frustrations with prayer are the result of using it for the wrong purpose. A fork is a wonderful tool for eating food, but it is a disappointing method for drinking water. In the same way, we are often discouraged with prayer because we are trying to use it to accomplish the wrong objective. Powerful prayer radiates from a heart that desires God's glory more than its comfort, and God's will more than its wants (see Luke 1:38; Matt. 26:42). When our desires are aligned with heaven's goals prayer becomes a powerful tool.

Prayer and Worship

Prayer lifts our minds out of the mundane and often muddy lives we live to see the eternal God sitting upon His throne, and from there life takes on a different hue. We see His power and our trembling knees steady. We see His grace and our sinful hearts rejoice. We see his holiness and we yearn to be better. Every new

portrait of God's character and work causes our mouths to gape open with praise.

Can you imagine not talking to God? Think of young Declan Bugal. He will never get to talk to his mother. She died giving birth to him. During a troublesome labor it became clear she would die so her child could have a chance to live. As a result, Declan will grow up without being able to tell his mother, "Thank you," and "I love you." That will no doubt leave a hole.

Yet, through prayer we can talk to our Father and say, "Thank you," and "We love you," for giving us life and every good thing we ever experienced. How grateful we are for prayer! *"I love You, O Lord, my strength."* (Psalm 18:1). *"Your steadfast love is better than life, so my lips will praise you"* (Psalm 63:3). Prayer is an intensely personal and powerful way to give God the adoration He deserves, even when our lives get messy (Acts 16:25).

Prayer and Care

Prayer is also a powerful way to care for others. After all, we are a part of the same family. That is why we pray, *"Our Father"* (Matt. 6:9). We share common needs. That is why we pray about *"our bread"* and *"our temptations"* (Matt. 6:11-13).

Jesus often showed affection for His disciples through prayer. He knew Peter's faith would be threatened by the fearful events of Calvary so Jesus told Peter, *"I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail"* (Luke 22:32). Just hours before His death Jesus prayed for His apostles and us (John 17:9,20). Jesus used prayer to show compassionate care!

The flight of the early church caught wind on the wings of prayer. They *"all continued with one accord in prayer"*

and supplication” (**Acts 1:14**). There are at least fourteen occasions in the book of Acts when the believers prayed for each other and their world. As a result, the message of the gospel echoed out, challenges were overcome, and believers were emboldened.

Prayer is an antidote for selfishness. It breaks us out of our small cocoons to see the needs of those around us. In prayer we pull close those who are far away, and we touch those we are otherwise helpless to change (**i.e. Rom. 10:1; 2 Cor. 1:11; Col. 1:3-11; James 5:16**).

Prayer and Faithfulness

God’s gift of prayer also provides fuel for faithful living. You can see this in the life of Jesus. Through prayer Jesus was strengthened to serve, endure the cross, and forgive those who abused Him (**Matt. 14:23; John 12:27; Luke 23:34**). He lived close to the Father because He was in constant communication with Him.

Oh how daily we need the privilege of prayer! It soothes our anxieties (**Phil. 4:6-7**). It helps us escape temptation (**Matt. 6:13**) and secures forgiveness when we fail (**1 John 1:9**). It strengthens our legs to live for the Lord and loosens our tongue to speak of Him (**Col. 4:2-4**). Prayer is the Christian’s vital breath—we cannot live without it.

God didn’t have to provide a way for us to speak to Him. It is truly a gift of grace, and the best way to say, “Thank You” is to use it.

SALVATION

You and I have the privilege, yea, the blessing, of knowing who Christ is and of partaking of the salvation He provides. Christ’s death on the cross makes salvation possible for all who will come to Him in obedience to His will. Still, the word salvation means different things to different people. Many folks do not believe that they need to be saved from anything. They live good moral lives, pay their bills on time, and try to be good neighbors. So, they see little or no need for the salvation Christ offers. Some believe that salvation came to them after they experienced some tragedy in life. Then, in a moment of introspection, they “felt” that the Lord spoke to them, or saved them, or in some way communicated His will to them. And, there is not much one can say to shake that person loose from their “subjective” salvation experience.

There is disagreement about when salvation occurs. Does salvation occur when you begin serving the Lord? Or, is salvation a process that continues throughout one’s life? What about heaven? Is salvation something

that we experience only at the end of time? If we are saved from our past sins, is that it? That is, are there other components or other responsibilities we must pay attention to in order to continue to be saved? Are justification, sanctification, and glorification separate acts? Do they occur at different times in a person’s life?

Some view the tensions between human beings (mankind) as the greatest problems one faces in this life. That is, when we read of wars, injustices, or even mild feuds between neighbors, these are the things that many view as being monumental and have to be addressed before or as one is being saved.

The Bible teaches that our greatest need is to be reconciled to God. Our estrangement from God is the result of our sin—sin against our Creator. Whatever we may or may not do regarding each other pales in comparison to the greatest of all grievances—our sin against a holy and just God! Horizontal relationships, while important, must take a back seat to vertical relationships. A lack of concord with each other is not nearly as egregious as being out of favor with God and His will.

In recent years, Liberation Theology has become a popular answer to the problems between countries; these problems might be racial or economic. Our society, with its emphasis on “feeling good about yourself” focuses on inward distress. Inadequacies, guilt, inferiority, etc., are eliminated when we understand ourselves, accept ourselves, and increase our self-esteem.

Jesus died to save each of us from sin. Our sin might take many forms. But an emphasis on anything less than the fact that we have violated the will of the living God in heaven is a misplaced emphasis.

Randy Harshbarger

Purpose Four: Bring in Everlasting Righteousness

I know it seems like this is going to take forever! After all, here we are on week six or so and still on the first sentence of the prophecy under consideration. I get it. But there’s a lot in this sentence and this is the key to unraveling the rest of the prophetic passage. So don’t give up or tune it out, trust in the Lord for it all to make sense. No worthwhile goal was ever accomplished by giving up on it!

The fourth purpose is: *“to bring in everlasting righteousness”*. This is the first of the POSITIVE goals stated, the first three were NEGATIVE in that they were undoing or taking away something. Here something is given or added, ‘everlasting righteousness’. How? The Kingdom of God is an everlasting Kingdom and the scepter of that Kingdom is the scepter of righteousness. (**Heb. 1:8 quoting Ps. 45:6f**) The Gospel of Jesus

Christ is complete and perfect needing neither improving nor editing and it provides us with EVERYTHING WE NEED spiritually, **2 Peter 1:3 & 2 Timothy 3:16f.**

In addition, the Law of Moses was designed to pass away at the coming of the Messiah, **Deut. 18:18f & Jer. 31:31-34.** The Gospel is to last, unchanged, to the end of time according to the words of Jesus in the great Commission, **Matt. 28:18ff, Mark 16:15f and Luke 24:45-47.** Thus the works of Joe Smith, L. Ron Hubbard, M.B. Eddy and C. T. Russell are all condemned. Everlasting righteousness in the form of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God it makes us part of are already here and available to all through the scriptures. Sins forgiven under this covenant are forgiven completely; the price has already been paid on the Cross!

Cleveland Reddinger

A Time for Growing Men

The nation was in the midst of the Great Depression and drought in 1930. I was fifteen. My mother and I lived alone on a small West Tennessee farm. We were attempting to scratch out a bare living from a worn-out farm with whatever abilities an ignorant boy, a widowed mother, and one mule and a plow could muster. That fall the rainfall had been so minute that the planter tracks could still be seen.

After a tiring, fruitless day, Mother sat by the coal oil lamp reading of God's love for man. With all the impatience of a teen-age boy, I halted her reading from the thumb-worn Bible with this question: "Mother, you tell me God loves us. He has a funny way of showing it! We have worked our fingers to the bone for the entire growing season, yet we will harvest little from these parched fields. We have done all that we can do. All this soil needs is rain, which only God can send. If God loves us, why doesn't He make it rain?"

With the patience which comes only from faith and years of trials, Mother paused, raised her head from the pages of her beloved Word of God and replied, "Son, you are making a serious mistake. You are assuming that God is interested in growing cotton and corn. He isn't! He can do that without you and me. God is interested in growing men. I dare say that, in future years, if God grants such to you, you will look back on 1930 as a terrible year for growing corn and cotton. But, if you learn the message God is teaching, you will recall this depression year as a great one for growing men!"

Mother was right. Want teaches what abundance can never know. Without a drought and a mother who understood it, I might never have known **2 Cor. 12:9,** *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather*

boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

by Dwayne Laws; Taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition

THE LITTLE CHAP WHO FOLLOWS ME

A careful man I want to be,
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray,
For fear he'll go the selfsame way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,
What'er he sees me do, he tries;
Like me he says he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every work of mine;
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winter's snow;
I'm building for the years to be
That little chap who follows me.

By Lee Fisher

(Received from Norman Fultz)

PRINCIPLE

What are you willing to do for \$10,000,000?
Two-thirds of Americans polled would agree to at least one, some to several of the following:
Would abandon their entire family (25%)
Would abandon their church (25%)
Would become prostitutes for a week or more (23%)
Would give up their American citizenships (16%)
Would leave their spouses (16%)
Would withhold testimony and let a murderer go free (10%)
Would kill a stranger (7%)
Would put their children up for adoption (3%)
James Patterson and Peter Kim, The Day America Told the Truth, 1991.

The fact is the \$10,000,000 just demonstrated the real character of the individual. If they were not willing to do these things for much less, the sum tells us they are without character and this price is the end result of haggling. It tells us what they would give in exchange for their soul.

Matt. 16:26 *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?."*

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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NEWS AND NOTES:

SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:
JAN PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER,
STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP AND
THE MOTHER OF ALMA
BAUMGARTNER

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
CHRISTIAN PARENTING PART 2 -
RON PECK TEACHER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS:
ANGELS AND DEMONS -
JIM STAUFFER TEACHER



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10