

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

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PRAYER IN EPHESIANS

As we read through this delightful Book, we shall find that the Apostle Paul rather frequently mentions the subject of prayer. In the first chapter he prays for the enlightening and enriching of the Christians.

In the third chapter his prayer is recorded again for GOD's people that they may become more spiritual and more like CHRIST.

In the sixth chapter he urges the believers to pray continually so that the work of GOD may prosper and not be hindered.

In Chapter Five, at verse 20, Paul calls for much thanksgiving in prayer. We should notice some of the omissions of the Book in regard to prayer. Here Paul does not pray for GOD to bless His Word, nor does he ask for guidance in service. All of his prayers are concerning the personal blessings of the believers.

Let us notice that in Chapter 1, verse 16, and in Chapter 6, verse 18, Paul is exhorting to constant prayer. The believer's life should be one of prayer constantly. There is a tendency on our part to pray a little in order to ease the conscience, but not to live in an atmosphere of prayer. Little prayer may be of little value and usually is. Little prayer rather salves the conscience and permits us to go on our way without a very close contact with GOD. Paul said that he ceased not in his prayers and urged the others to pray always.

We should notice also, that in Paul's prayer there was very little preamble. There are no long, drawn out approaches to GOD. Paul spends no time explaining the Scriptures to GOD, in fact he does not quote any Scripture in his prayer. Paul does not describe world conditions to GOD, nor does he tell GOD all of the many things that he is thankful for in these public petitions. Long times of thanksgiving are quite all right in private prayer but is hardly in place in public prayer.

We are impressed with the fact that in Paul's prayers he was very explicit and specific in his petitions. He prayed for the matter that was urgent upon his heart. He did not pray for everything that he could think of. He did not pray for his own physical condition. He did not pray for the healing of others. All the prayers in Ephesians are specifically for the spiritual enrichment of the Christians in Ephesus. His prayers revealed his heart's desire.

Paul was constant in his prayer for he ceased not. He was humble in his prayer for he bowed his knees. He was scriptural in his prayer for he came in association with the LORD JESUS CHRIST. He was Godly in his prayer for he prayed that the believers might be SPIRIT filled and SPIRIT taught. He believed in prayer because he urged the others to pray and indicated that he expected much blessing in his own life because of their intercession.

Paul evidently felt that GOD's people are utterly dependent upon GOD for growth in grace and usefulness in service. Paul's prayer for the saints was so valuable, so profitable, so orthodox that the HOLY SPIRIT recorded them for succeeding generations. I wonder if our prayers are of such a character that they are worth preserving for the blessing of future generations. Let us examine our prayers carefully and see whether we are really talking with the eternal, living GOD, or whether we are just saying words to quiet our own consciences.

~ end of book ~

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