

WHY PRAY?

Becoming God's Friend

Discussion Guide
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"Why Pray?"

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Genesis 1:28

Sermon Outline

- I. **Meat is for the Mature...Who Discern Between Good & Evil (Heb. 5:14)**
 - A. Some truths require the entire Bible as a context for full understanding
 - B. Effective heresies are usually truths nudged out of balance
 - C. Strong meat will choke a little child who is only accustomed to milk
 - D. This foundation for understanding the necessity of intercessory prayer has caused many to stumble into some serious error that leads far away from God:
 1. Some have abandoned the truth of the sovereignty of God
 2. Some have become puffed up with a false sense of power & authority
 3. Some have fallen into sorcery and witchcraft with false doctrines of
 - a. "name it, claim it"
 - b. "speak the word of faith" (power of out-loud verbalization)
 - c. "positive confession" & power of mind over matter
- II. **A Biblical Context & World View for Intercessory Prayer**
 - A. God made the earth for human beings and gave it to them
 1. Subdue it and have dominion over it (Gen. 1:28)
 2. God is a covenant keeping God
 3. God's covenants often translate into spiritual "laws" (like gravity)
 - B. Adam & Eve sold out the title deed to planet earth to Satan in the deception
 - C. Satan became the "god of this world" (2 Co 4:4, also Eph 2:2, 1 Jn 2:15-17)
 - D. A man lost the right to rule by yielding to satan, a Man must reclaim the right and redeem humanity by cancelling the effects of the sin & rebellion
 1. Jesus Christ is that Man, the Last Adam, the Second Man (1 Co 15:20-28, 47)
 2. He suffered and died for the sins *and* the SIN of man
 3. He destroyed the works of the devil and offers redemption to mankind
 4. It is a redemptive reclamation that must be won one person at a time
 - E. All authority has been restored to mankind through Jesus Christ, our Man in glory, who has won the victory and is enthroned at the right hand of the Father
 1. As we are born under sin through Adam and under the curse, we are born again into righteousness and life through Jesus Christ and raised with Him and seated in heavenly realms
 2. It is in this role, as ambassadors of Jesus Christ to this planet, that we wield His authority in advancing His Kingdom and defeating the devil
- III. **Intercessory Prayer is the Spiritual Warfare that Reclaims & Restores the Lost**
 - A. Its primary purpose is to advance the Kingdom by bringing people to Christ
 - B. It involves capturing ground Satan holds tenaciously in his grip of death
 - C. It allows for fellowship and unity with the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ
 - D. It provides for secondary provisions in our own care and needs & our co-workers in the battle, as well as the needs of the work (harvest, vineyard, etc.)
 - E. It brings us into direct confrontation with the powers of darkness in the effort to wrestle from their grip the blinded hearts of men and women lost in sin
 - F. It is a work of a covenant keeping God that can only be done through men & women who agree to allow Him to do His will on earth, just as it is done in heaven, by asking for His will on this planet and being His conduits of grace.

"You do not have because you do not ask; Ask...that the Father may be glorified...that your joy may be made full!"

Prayer is the only way to enter the work of God, to see His will accomplished here in this earth, which He will not do unless we invite Him through prayer!

Herb, you may wish to include the following Scripture references for this message:

Genesis 1:27-28
Hebrews 5:12-14
I Corinthians 3:1-3
II Timothy 2:15
2 Co 4:4, Eph 2:2
1 Corinthians 15:20-28

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xx (NASB)

