

Reference: VARIOUS

Church: GRACE

Date: 1/16/2000

Public Worship - Prayer

Purpose: To demonstrate that prayer should be a part of our public worship and to show the character of that prayer

1. Introduction

Continuing series on worship

What have we seen so far?

What is worship?

What place do the 10 commandments have?

What important principle did we see next?

What did we look at last week?

Did preaching play a part in early worship?

Note – preachers are not inerrant

Their authority derives from the Word

Nevertheless, we must be very sure of our ground before disagreeing

Must have a strong and Biblical argument

This week – prayer

Will focus on prayer in public worship

2. What is Prayer?

It is communicating with God

Verbalizing praise, thanks, adoration

Also intercession, confession

It is using the access Christ has won for us to the throne-room

2.1. The content of our public prayer

1 Timothy 2:1-2 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

What can we say of the content from this?

Varied

Should pray for peace, Pray for rulers

Why?

Matthew 6:9-13 Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

What can we say of the content from this?

3. What is Biblical evidence for its place in Public worship?

We have many examples of corporate prayer in Scripture

1 Chronicles 16:34-36 O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. 35 Then say, "Save us, O God of our salvation, And gather us and deliver us from the nations, To give thanks to Your holy name, And glory in Your praise." 36 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, From everlasting even to everlasting. Then all the people said, "Amen," and praised the Lord.

Ezra 9:13-10:1 After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and our great guilt, since You our God have requited us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us an escaped remnant as this, 14 shall we again break Your commandments and intermarry with the peoples who commit these abominations? Would You not be angry with us to the point of destruction, until there is no remnant nor any who escape? 15 O Lord God of Israel, You are righteous, for we have been left an escaped remnant, as it is this day; behold, we are before You in our guilt, for no one can stand before You because of this. 1 Now while Ezra was praying and making confession, weeping and prostrating himself before the house of God, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept bitterly.

Nehemiah 8:6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Jesus clearly foresaw corporate prayer:

Matthew 18:19-20 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

It was a major characteristic of the early church:

Acts 2:42-47 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them,
 Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.
 Acts 12:12 And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.
 Acts 13:2-3 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4. What kind of prayer conforms to the principles we have seen?

Directed to the One True God

Reverent and humble –

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil. 2 Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

Not repetitious

Matthew 6:7 And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

Devoted, alert, joyful and thankful

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;

Arising from a clean heart

Right motives

Concern for His honor

5. What kind of prayer will He hear?

5.1. *In Christ's Name*

John 14:13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

What does this mean?

5.2. *According to His will*

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

What does this mean?

5.3. *Believing, not doubting*

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

What does this mean? – See the prayer of faith in James 5
 Remember the faith is a gift – not something we pump ourselves up to.

5.4. *Corporate Prayer*

Matthew 18:19-20 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

What does this mean?

5.5. *Prayer in the Spirit*

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

What does this mean?

6. How is prayer worship?

In what ways will prayers of this kind be full of worship?

Humble, dependent, respectful, believing

People this morning should understand what our God is like

When they see us at prayer

Should know He is great, powerful

That He governs the nations

That He is trustworthy, gracious, merciful

7. Conclusions

Have seen a number of examples about prayer in the church

What can we learn from these things?