



Sunday, April 3, 2011: The Lord's Prayer

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-8, Isaiah 64

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Jesus gives us a pattern of how we ought to pray.
2. It's not the number of our words that pleases God, but the sincerity and faith of our prayers.
3. Prayer is communication, fellowship with God.
4. We pray because we want to know God and be transformed in our communion with Him.
5. We're not to be enslaved to rigid models of formal prayer, but we're to be always open to God, with constant, regular, short sentence prayers to God.
6. The Lord's Prayer (see also Luke 11:2-4), is a skeleton pattern for how Christians ought to pray.
7. The sermon on the mount is for Christians, and this is God's pattern for prayer for all believers in all time.
8. This petition covers everything we might rightly desire of God.
9. The prayer focuses first on the glory of God and then on man and his needs.
10. The Lord guides us in how we might glorify Him, and how might find joy in prayer.
11. We often see prayer in a self-centered way. The starting point for prayer is submission to God's will.
12. God has always regarded His covenant people as His children. 'Universal Fatherhood' of God is not biblical.
13. It is only the redeemed in Jesus Christ who can truly call God their Father.

14. Not everyone can call God their Father. Jesus told the Pharisees, "You are of your father the Devil" (Jn. 8:44).
15. Our prayers should begin with worship and submission.
16. Our God is transcendent, dwelling in eternity (2 Chronicles 2:6).
17. Only those grafted into Christ can call God their Father. We are then brothers by adoption.
18. We need to approach God with reverence and godly fear – He is a holy and righteous God.
19. Our prayers begin with a passion for the glory of God.
20. The key feature of God's reign is all things doing His will.
21. It's not cheap to be in the presence of God; our songs and prayers are to honour God appropriately.
22. We're praying that God's name be recognized and raised high in all creation (cf. John 17:4).
23. The attempt at making all things equal begins with the rebellious desire to make God just like me.
24. When you don't hallow the name of God, you lose the only standard to measure value.
25. God is still at work in history among His children.

Application Questions

1. How does the Lord's prayer instruct us on how we ought to live in God's presence?
2. What do Matthew 6:5 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17 teach about the normative pattern for prayer?
3. Do my prayers address God with due reverence?
4. Identify the corresponding petition of the Lord's prayer for the following passages: Psalm 22:28; Daniel 2:44; Psalm 40:7; Prov. 30:8; Exodus 34:9; Lev. 29:18; Psalm 50:15; 1 Chronicles 29:11.
5. What is the precondition of calling God "Our Father"?
6. How does the Lord's teaching challenge my prayer life?