

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: Ken Coleman

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#71 As the Deer
#528 I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary
#387 Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Communion Meditation - Daniel Balch

#349 Ten Thousand Angels

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#535 The Glory-Land Way

Sermon: "When You Come Together: Prayer"

Acts 4:24-30

#915 Trust and Obey
#800 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Closing Prayer by: Daniel Balch

Welcome by: Bobby Rader

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#904 Have You Been to Jesus?
#853 When We All Get to Heaven

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen
Prayer by: Phillip Strickhausen

#611 Heavenly Sunlight

Sermon: "One Word: Mercy"
2 Peter 1:5-8

#945 Kneel at the Cross
#957 This World is Not My Home

Closing Prayer by: Don Taylor

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

February 10, 2019

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Prayer in the Assembly

As we continue our series of lessons on the activities we participate in when we assemble together, we are going to talk today about prayer. The ability to approach God's throne is a great privilege. But it is also a tremendous responsibility to direct God's people before him; after all, the one who leads a prayer is speaking on behalf of an entire congregation to God!

We will make some suggestions for public (and private) prayer in our sermon, but some things have to be cut for time's sake. With that said, I thought I would share with you some practical suggestions I have found to be helpful. Many of these are culled from Dan Chambers book *Showtime: Worship in the Age of Show Business*.

1. Consider writing out and reading more public prayers. That is not to make this a requirement over spontaneous prayer. But many men would probably benefit from at least making an outline in advance, if not writing the entire thing out. The point here is not so much about the specific words used, but about putting thought and preparation into our prayers.

Too many times, our public prayers tend to lapse into platitudes and generalities. Those aren't particularly meaningful. But a prayer that is thoughtful and heartfelt can be truly inspiring. Some people can do that with little or no preparation; some cannot. By thinking about prayer in advance and even writing it out or outlining it, all of those who have the privilege of leading prayer in public can think about the specific needs of the congregation and prepare to take them before God in a meaningful way.

2. Keep public prayers brief. Brief is a relative term, of course; I am sure we all have different notions on the ideal length of a sermon, for instance. The goal is not to prescribe a specific time limit, but to be conscious of the attention span of the congregation. When prayers go on and on, concentration naturally begins to wane, so that even a very meaningful prayer may end up losing its intended effect. What we are really talking about here, then, are excessively long prayers. It would be better for us to simply add more, shorter prayers in an assembly than one or two unduly long ones.

Our Sick

Joe Edd Stiffemire is in Methodist Hospital.

Jean Blackburn is having swelling in her legs.

J. P. Williams had a stroke and is at home.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale, Phillip Cottle, Kevin Coleman, Tim Watts, Minny Owen

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00 pm.

Singing at Magnolia Place Health Care today at 4:00 pm.

Primetimers will be going to Marsala's Italian Grill in Huffman on Tuesday, Feb. 12th at 4:45 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is Saturday, Feb. 16th at 8:00 am.

We will be having a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, Feb. 21st at 8:00 am.

We are in the process of starting a new church recipe book. Please be thinking of recipes you would like to share. Here is the email address for the recipes: liberty.ladiesministry@aol.com More details to come.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

Communion Preparation: Jennifer McKelroy
 Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Feb. 17th: Jo Ella McKewen
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Feb. 17th: Tania Balch/Pat Hobbs

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3. Devote an entire service to prayer. It would probably be beneficial for us to consider conducting some sort of regular prayer meeting. As has been observed, it's much easier to get us to study prayer as a group than it is to get us together to actually pray. This could be once a month, once a quarter, whatever interval we like, but prayer should occupy a place of importance in our lives, both individually and collectively. And our corporate prayer practice has a tendency to shape our personal practice.

In this sort of service, we might call on men to lead prayers for particular concerns: supplication on behalf of needs in the congregation; thanksgiving for what God has done and is doing among us; confession of sin; etc. That could be interspersed with selected songs and/or readings from Scripture – the Psalms in particular are a treasure trove related to prayer. In keeping with the requisite preparation we have noted, prayer assignments should hopefully be made in advance to allow adequate time for reflection on what will be said.

4. Get specific. Most of the time, our public prayers are sort of “catch-all” affairs that include everything that we can possibly think of in the moment. There is nothing wrong with that. But what if we considered having a narrower, but deeper focus in our prayers? Certain prayers in the assembly could be set aside for praise, for intercession, for petition, and so forth. One of the elders recently raised the idea of a “Shepherd's Prayer” at the close of services to send the congregation out with a blessing, and I think that is an excellent idea along this line.

There are, no doubt, other suggestions that could be made. You might not necessarily agree with all of these, or you might have your own good ideas that aren't mentioned here. In any case, the hope is to develop a more profound experience of public prayer. We are not simply fulfilling an obligation here; we are leading the thoughts of an entire body of God's people in approaching his throne. That's a serious matter. Those invested with this duty should treat it accordingly.

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”
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