

## **PRAYING THE PSALMS**

### **PRAYING FOR GOD'S GLORY**

Thursday, January 18

Reading: Psalm 79

**Psalm 79:9** *Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of Your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake.*

**10** *Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Before our eyes, make known among the nations that You avenge the outpoured blood of Your servants.*

Pastor Daniel Henderson reminds us of an important truth. "Too often our prayers are intended to inform God of what we believe He needs to do to structure the universe in compliance with our desires for a happy and comfortable life. Because most of us have been taught that the primary purpose of prayer is to ask God to meet our temporal needs, we continue in this routine without the thought of something greater and more powerful. Yet, there is a purpose in prayer that is much more profound. There is a goal that can shape the ambition of all godly prayers. It is the glory of God."<sup>1</sup>

Psalm 79 is another lament psalm which cries out to God in the middle of tragedy. In the aftermath of the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem, the writer sees the city and Temple in ruins, the people slaughtered, and the surrounding nations gloating over their defeat (79:1-3).

At the heart of this prayer, the psalmist declares: "Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of Your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake" (79:9). Despite the deep pain he is feeling at the destruction of all that he held dear, the writer proclaims that it is not his desires but God's name that is most important. His desire is that the salvation of God's people will bring glory to God and make the nations take notice (79:10).

Maybe the reason our prayer lives seem so dry at times is because we are praying with the wrong focus. Notice that "the Lord's Prayer" in Matthew 6 begins and ends with God's glory. We are told to hallow His name, to pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done. It ends with a reminder that the kingdom, power, and glory all belong to God forever. Our needs and requests are sandwiched between these expressions of God's glory.

Sometimes we get so caught up with our wants, our needs, our problems that we forget that it is not all about us. We get selfish and want God to do things our way! But our life is not about us. The Apostle Paul declares that we are not our own but are "bought at a price" - the precious blood of Christ. Therefore, we are to glorify God with our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). In another place he proclaims, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

**PRAYER THOUGHT:** Our prayers need to reflect the fact that we live for the glory of Christ. Each request should be made with His glory in mind. Every attitude should be focused, not on ourselves and the advancement of our agenda, but on how this will bring honor to God and advance His kingdom and will in the world. Where does God's glory fit into your prayer time? How can you "rethink" your prayer life so that God's glory is at its heart?

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.strategicrenewal.com/2014/01/20/praying-for-the-glory-of-god/>