

A Battle Worth Winning: Consistent Communion with God

Sundays in July

July 7th, 2019

The year is approximately 1440 BC and a group of former slaves have been delivered from the greatest power on earth...

The Context The Primary Verse

I. The Example of Christ Calls us to A New Life (vv.1-6)

His example leads us to God's Will (vv.1-2)

His example leads us to New Choices (vv.3-4)

His example leads us to Gospel Purpose (vv.5-6)

❑ Christ's Death and Resurrection Assure Our Vindication
(v.5)

❑ Christ's Death and Resurrection Assure Our Resurrection
(v.6)

II. The Eschaton of Christ Calls us to A New Life (vv.7-11)

- Live by Thinking Eschatologically (v.7a)
 - 1) Live by Praying Thoughtfully (v.7b)
 - 2) Live by Loving Soteriologically (v.8)
 - 3) Live by Sharing Sacrificially (v.9)
 - 4) Live by Serving Responsibly (vv.10-11a)
- Live by Thinking Worshipfully (v.11b)

II. The Eschaton of Christ Calls us to A New Life (vv.7-11)

Live by Thinking Eschatologically

□ Live by Praying Thoughtfully (v.7)

1) The Motivation of a Prayerful Life (v.7a)

- Imminency in Peter**
- The Last Hour and Behavior**
- Peter and the Lord's Prayer**

2) The Mindset of a Prayerful Life (v.7b)

3) The Practice of a Prayerful Life

- The Definition of Prayer
 - The Example of Prayer
 - Biblical Examples of Sober Prayers
 - The Method of Prayer
 - Words that help frame a method of prayer...
- *Thoughtful*—sound and sober.
 - *Selfless*—because the person is leveled headed, they will think rightly about others and what is important in life—sober minded people are not fixed on the temporal and material
 - *Consistent*—without ceasing
 - *Prioritized*—if communication is the key to any relationship, then our prayer to God for ourselves and others must be primary
 - *Organized*—order helps fight the wandering mind
 - *Spontaneous*—prayers that spring from needs and feelings
 - *Worshipful*—prayer is communion that it directed to God and with God; therefore, prayer is an act of worship. Scripture is clear that God invites the prayers of His people, and in the book of Revelation among other places, the prayers of the saints are an incense that is pleasing to God—Rev 5:8; 8:3-4 they are *before the throne, before God*
 - *Devoted*—the commitment to prayer (Col 4:2-4)
 - **AWOL and Desertion in Prayer?**

Practical Ways to Devoted Prayer

Nine Obstacles

1. Because of an INADEQUATE view of God
2. Because of an IGNORANCE of prayer
3. Because of MISUSING prayer
4. Because of UNCHECKED sins (Psalms 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7)
5. Because of MISPLACED passion
6. Because of the battle to DISCIPLINE the mind
7. Because of LOSING heart (Luke 18:1-8)
8. Because of a LACK of love
9. Because of UNDERESTIMATING spiritual warfare (Eph 6:10-20)

Practical Ways to Devoted Prayer

Nine Counter Measures

1. Spend time MEDITATING on the greatness of God.
2. Increase your KNOWLEDGE of prayer by reading and listening.
3. Develop a TENDER HEART by praying through tragic news.
 - ❑ Avoid the frustration response. PRAY OR BE SILENT!
4. Find a place of SOLACE.
 - ❑ But be free to pray in other environments (travel, driving, waiting, walking, running, exercising, etc.)
5. Fight the wandering mind with lists, pictures, and notes.
 - ❑ Strive for the PRAYER ZONE

Nine Counter Measures

6. Develop the habit of praying SCRIPTURE.
7. Develop the discipline of fasting (Isa 58:4; Matt 9:14-17)
8. Start with a very reasonable amount of time and allow the experience and Spirit to move upon your CONSCIENCE.
 - ❑ Remember, consistency is better than the greatest initial commitment that wanes.
9. Follow the Daniel PRINCIPLE (Dan 6:10,13)—divide prayer into sessions.

A Final Thought

The greatest battle by the greatest warrior...