

11/11/18 Sunday School

"PRAYER"

There are 523 references to prayer in Scripture. There are 48 references made by the Apostle Paul alone.

What IS prayer? The Hebrew (Old Testament) word is "naw" which means to beseech or earnestly desire.

In the Greek (New Testament) the word means to make a request, supplications, worship and imploring.

There are many misleading teachings on prayer today.

One example is **2 Chronicles 7:14** "If my people who are called by my name..." Solomon was King of Israel and God was speaking to Israel ABOUT Israel. By reading context it is easy to see that prayer has nothing at all to do with America.

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that old things are passed away.

Gal 6:15 reminds us that there is no Jew or Gentile today, in God's view.

Phil. 3:17-20 Our conversation in heaven. We do not mind earthly things. Yet, that is what the 2 Chronicles prayer is all about – healing our land.

Colossians 3:1 We are to see the things above. Washington DC is not going to "make things right". Only God can do that.

Our focus today is to get souls saved!

Matt 21:22 People think this is carte blanche to ask God to give us anything we want. It's not.

John 15:7 There is the condition – abiding in Christ. Bearing fruit is the goal, not getting new cars, boats and houses or fatter bank accounts :)

1 John 5:13-14 Even Kingdom believers were taught they had to ask (pray) *according to God's will*.

Rom. 8:18-26 We will suffer. The entire creation is waiting for deliverance. Our infirmities are a reality. We don't know what to pray for but the Holy Spirit does.

Matt 6:9 "The Lord's Prayer" isn't even a prayer but a model of how kingdom believers should pray. Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the coming of the Davidic Kingdom that they had been promised. Why would WE today in the dispensation of Grace, pray for that?

1 Cor. 15:50 Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. So which realm is Paul referring to? The heavenly realm! You can't inherit that kingdom in your earthly body.

1 Cor. 15:50-53 and 1 Thess. 4:13 The catching away, or rapture of the Body of Christ. (Christ won't return to the earth at that time – we meet Him in the air).

Eph 6:18 Often misunderstood to be about praying in tongues. It is not.

Rom 8:8-9 In the flesh you can't please God. If you have believed in Christ, you have the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Gal 3:1 The Galatian church started out believing the Gospel of Grace but were persuaded by Judaizers that they needed to add other things (works) to their salvation. The flesh doesn't bring perfection.

Message: **Distinctions between Paul's Letters and Hebrews through Revelation**

Every one of Paul's letters begin with basically the same salutation. (see **2 Thess. 3:17** as example).

The letters of Hebrews through the Revelation address matters during the Tribulation.

Hebrews was a letter written to Israel. What are those "last days"? The prophetic "last days" after the dispensation of grace has ended. Same last days that Peter taught about in Acts 2 and 3.

Heb. 2:3-4 That ministry was during Jesus' lifetime and into early Acts.

Heb 3:12-14 "holding fast" was the same idea as "enduring to the end" (of the Tribulation).

Heb 4:1 is the opposite of what Paul assures us who are sealed to the day of redemption. Remember that when Israel proved unfaithful, God removed their promises.

Heb 6:4 Sounds a lot like Jesus' parable of the thorny ground. Also consistent with His teaching about being cast off as a branch to be burned. (**John 15:6**). Israel does NOT have eternal security.

Heb 8 There is only one high priest now. Members of the Body of Christ have NO covenant. Only believing Israel is heir to the covenants of God. Vs 10 refers to **Jeremiah 31:31**. Christ HAD to die on the cross for Israel to receive their new covenant promises.

James was an apostle to Israel. He is not addressing the church.

James 2:24 says the opposite of what Paul taught in **Ephesians 2:8-9**. A contradiction or did Paul and James have different messages?

James 5:13-15 is inconsistent with Paul's teachings, but quite consistent with what Jesus taught.

Deut. 11:10 description of the earthly kingdom, which will be a very special environment with all the blessings of the old covenants. These are the blessings Jesus taught His disciples to pray for in Matt 6.

James 5:7 James references Deut. 11 and all the promises (early and latter rain vs 14). Remember that James and all the disciples expected Christ to return any moment and for the Tribulation to begin.

James 5:11-12 ties in perfectly with what Jesus taught them.

James 5:14 – anointing with oil, see also Mark 6:13 and Mark 16:18. All of that is for saints going through the Tribulation.

1 Peter 2:9 royal priesthood – another unique promise to Israel but not to the Body of Christ.

Isaiah 53 (by whose stripes ye are healed) see also **1 Peter 2:24** they agree.

1 Peter 4:7 "The end of all things is at hand"...that was what they truly believed. The Tribulation was shortly to follow.

2 Peter 1:10-11 "Make your calling and election sure" (Paul doesn't teach anything that sounds like this).

2 Peter 1:19 daystar = Jesus.

Malachi 4:1 sun of righteousness – a prophetic reference to Christ's coming the second time.

2 Peter 3:1-4 Last days references again. Vs 10 Peter speaks of the 2nd coming and the end of the Tribulation.

1 John 1:9 "if we confess our sins..." Paul teaches us that our sins are already forgiven.

1 John 2:3 "IF we keep His commandments." is conditional.

1 John 4:3 Many other religions acknowledge that Jesus Christ walked the earth. That is not the same as believing IN Him. Vs 6 – true believers will know the real antichrist during the Tribulation.

Revelation 1, 2, and 3 The Seven Churches. The doctrines being taught will apply during the Tribulation.

Rev 2:7 Overcoming, again and another promise. The Tree of Life will be in the New Jerusalem, on the earth. *We won't be here.*

Rev 3:1-5 "He that overcometh" – again another promise to Tribulation saints, not to the Body of Christ. We cannot have our names blotted out from the Book of Life.

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