

Voice of Thanksgiving
Calling a Company of Believers Together For Prayer
Inner Court Ministries

For the week of May 25, 2003

A Call to Prayer

***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;***
Ephesians 6:18

This Week In Prayer

- Pray for the ***Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries*** conference for pastors from Belarus, Ukraine, and Lithuania, June 13-15, 2003. Pray for the pastors coming to Koszalin for the conference.

Pray that they will be able to come and have safe, uncomplicated travel to Poland and home again.

Pray that they will be further strengthened and established for the job they have been called to do.

Pray that there will develop deeper and stronger relationships with the pastors and Marek from Poland and Mark from Longmont the host of the conference.

Pray that this will be a time of blessing and refreshing for these pastors.

- Pray for members of our company going on mission trips this summer. Pray for God's protection and provision. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work mightily in and through each member of these teams.
- Pray for Israel. Use Isaiah 60:1-22 for your prayers this week.

***Arise, shine; for thy light is come,
and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee,
and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,
and kings to the brightness of thy rising...***

From Isaiah 60

Praying Always for You

Week by week we are praying for one another as members of this company of believers joined together for prayer. We have been using prayers of Paul as our guide. This week let us begin a couple of weeks of prayer, looking at a very simple yet profound prayer of Paul. ***Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*** Romans 15:33

For this we are indebted to AW Pink and this teaching from his book *Gleanings from Paul*.

“Now The God Of Peace be with you all. Amen.” The “God of peace”: Contrary to the general run of commentators, we regard this divine title as expressing first of all what God is in Himself, that is, as abstracted from relationship with His creatures and apart from His operations and bestowments. He is Himself the Fountain of peace. Perfect tranquility reigns in His whole Being. He is never ruffled in the smallest measure, never perturbed by anything, either within or without Himself. How could He be? Nothing can possibly take Him by surprise, for “known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world” (Acts 15:18). Nothing can ever disappoint Him, for “of him, and through him, and to him, are all things” (Rom. 11:36). Nothing can to the slightest degree disturb His perfect equanimity, for He is “the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Consequently perfect security ever fills Him: that is one component element of His essential glory. Ineffable peace is one of the jewels in the diadem of Deity.

The God of Peace

Let us for a season gird up the loins of our minds and endeavor to contemplate someone vastly different, someone infinitely more excellent, namely, the One who is a total stranger to unrest and disquietude, the One who enjoys undisturbed calm, “the God of peace.” It seems strange that this glorious excellency of the divine character is so little dwelt upon by Christian writers. The sovereignty of God, the power of God, the holiness of God, the immutability of God, have frequently been made the theme of devout penmen; but the peace of God Himself has received scarcely any attention. Numerous sermons have been preached upon “the God of love” and “the God of all grace,” but where shall we find any on “the God of peace” except as the reconciled God? Only once in all the Scriptures is He specifically designated “the God of love,” and only once “the God of all grace,” yet five times He is called “the God of peace.” As such, a perpetual calm characterizes His whole being; He is infinitely blessed in Himself.

The names and titles of God make known to us His being and character. By meditating upon each one of them in turn, by mixing faith therewith, by giving all of them a place in our hearts and minds, we are enabled to form a better and fuller concept of who He is and what He is in Himself, His relationship to and His attitude toward us. God is the Fountain of all good, the Sum of all excellency. Every grace and every virtue we perceive in the saints are but scattered rays which have emanated from Him who is Light. We not only do Him a great injustice but we are largely the losers ourselves if we habitually think and speak of God according to only one of His titles, be it “the Most High” on the one hand, or “our Father” on the other. Just as we need to read and ponder every part of the Word if we are to become acquainted with God’s revealed will and be “thoroughly furnished unto all good works,” so we need to

meditate upon and make use of all the divine titles if we are to form a well-rounded and duly balanced concept of His perfections and realize what a God is ours—and what is the extent of His absolute sufficiency for us.

So let us meditate on “The God of peace” and pray for our further understanding and walking in His peace.

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Imperative Importance Of The Work Of Prayer

Throughout the Bible we come across powerful and sometimes shocking pronouncements by God. Sometimes we are tempted to gloss over His words, missing their impact. But God has given them for the impact; for those to whom they were originally addressed and for us today. Let His words have their full weight, their full impact. Also when a Word seems to be for someone else, for those seeking after other god’s as in this example, remember, “but for the Grace of God so go I”. Often when words catch our attention God is dealing with us, the words highlighting a need or lack in us, or a call for our prayers for others.

Look at Psalm 16

*Michtam of David. Preserve me, O God:
for in thee do I put my trust.
O my soul, thou hast said unto the LORD,
Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee;
But to the saints that are in the earth,
and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.
Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god:
their drink offerings of blood will I not offer,
nor take up their names into my lips.
The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup:
thou maintainest my lot.
The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea,
I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel:
my reins also instruct me in the night seasons.
I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand,
I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad,
and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.
For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;
neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
Thou wilt show me the path of life:
in thy presence is fulness of joy;
at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

The part that caught my eye is the line,

*Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god:
their drink offerings of blood will I not offer,
nor take up their names into my lips.*

Jesus is our intercessor; it is what He lives to do.

***Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died,
yea rather, that is risen again,
who is even at the right hand of God,
who also maketh intercession for us.***

Romans 8:34

***Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him,
seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.***

Hebrews 7:25

Isn't it startling that God says He will not take up the names of those who hasten after another god?

***I pray for them:
I pray not for the world,
but for them which thou hast given me;
for they are thine.***

John 17:9

Another god, no intercession, what a scary thought, once again God is rattling our cages. Salvation seems to be such a simple thing. It is so simple, but the results are so important.

***That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead,
thou shalt be saved.***

Romans 10:9

When we see the stark dividing line separating the lost, when we see men and women hanging in the balance, we see a call to prayer. With eternity in the balance, we must pray. Has God called you to a life of prayer? Then here is the subject of your prayer, the lost, all who are seeking after other gods. Will you pray, or will they be lost?

Those who seek after other gods cannot be saved except they turn from their way. They are like the prodigal son, seeking his own way. Don't you suppose his father prayed as he was watching every day for his son to return, and finally his prayers were answered, "***And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.***" Luke 15:20. The answer to the father's prayers is in verse 17 "***And when he came to himself,***" This was his turning point. no longer was he seeking the world (other god's) now he would and did return to his father.

All around us, in the five countries and many states where we live, there are prodigal sons and daughters needing our prayers so they will turn. In the countries of the world there are sons and daughters living a life that begs for our prayers. Let us pray!

Father, our prayer is for those hastening after other gods. Make the stark reality of death and separation from you very real to them. Bring them to the point where they can like the prodigal son, "come to him or herself". Cause this one to turn from hastening after other gods, and to turn to you the true and living God.

Joining This Company

All Christians who will pray are welcome. ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** is sent by email or letter to all who will commit to prayer as member of this company. It is a guide to challenge us and direct our prayers. The fee for joining is your commitment to pray.

Please join us in praying for the nations. Send me an email with the word JOIN in the subject so I know you are interested in continuing to receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. Tell your friends and prayer partners about ***Voice of Thanksgiving***. The call is to gather a company of believers who will pray. Together we will reach nations for Jesus Christ.

To receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** by email:

Send an email to david@innercourt.com
include the word JOIN in the subject line

To receive ***Voice of Thanksgiving*** by regular mail:

Voice of Thanksgiving
Inner Court Ministries
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Longmont, CO 80502

If you have questions or comments

Send them to David Williamson:
david@innercourt.com

To have your address removed from our list

Send an email to david@innercourt.com
Include the word REMOVE in the subject line