

Session 25: Prayer in the Dispensation of Gentile Grace

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 25).

Mike incorrectly labeled and refers to this recording as Session 24 however it is Session 25.

Review Issue #1: The aspects of God's power being utilized in this dispensation are all designed to work in our inner man:

- The power of the Gospel to save us (Romans 1:16)
- The power to sustain us (Ephesians 4:30)
- The power to stablish us (Romans 16:25)
- The excellency of his power in us (2 Corinthians 4:7)
- The power to endure (Colossians 1:11; 2 Timothy 1:8)
- The power to glory in infirmities (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- The power of his grace to work in us (Ephesians 1:19)
- The power of his word *to strengthen our inner man* (Ephesians 3:7, 20)
- The power to sanctify our whole spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Review Issue #2: The main reasons we do not know what to pray for as we ought are:

- We are superstitious Gentiles
- The effect of erroneous religious traditions
- The tendency of our flesh to focus on the temporal
- Unawareness that prayer is a dispensational issue

As one more preliminary issue, I will begin encouraging you to do some reading every week that is pertinent to our study.

Scripture Reading:

- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- The book of Philippians

Scripture Memorization:

Colossians 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

***Ephesians 3:16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ^{17a} That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...*

What are the “riches of his glory?” The riches of his glory are ‘Christ in you.’

And what does ‘Christ in you’ mean? Christ in you describes the process whereby Christ lives his life in and through us.

How do we get Christ to live his life in us? Christ lives his life in us as we “by faith” respond to the doctrines contained in Paul’s epistles. We understand the doctrine, we believe it, and then we integrate that belief into our everyday conduct and behavior.

So, what is Paul praying will happen to them? Paul prays, “according to the riches of his glory,” (or, in connection with Christ living his life in them) “to be strengthened with might” (the ability to endure sufferings) “by his Spirit in their inner man.”

Paul is praying that they will be given the ability to endure sufferings through Christ living his life in them. By making them aware of his prayer for them about this issue of them “fainting not,” Paul means to activate the doctrine they already know. Why does Paul want to do that?

***Revelations 3:7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:..*

***Ephesians 3: 13** Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. ¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

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Session 26: The Purpose of Paul's Prayer

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 26).

Mike incorrectly labeled and refers to this recording as Session 25 however it is Session 26.

Ephesians 3: 13 *Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. ¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ^{17a} That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...*

Why is Paul telling them why he is praying for them? Paul means to activate the doctrine they already know.

Colossians 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

Ephesians 3:16 *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ^{17a} That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith...*

Paul wants to turn their thoughts toward this issue so that they will:

- Remember to think about their sufferings from the standpoint of their heavenly Father so they will not:
 - Be overcome by the tribulations that are occurring.
 - Fall back into thinking about them the way an uneducated son would think.
- Discern that their godly endurance of these tribulations should come out of Christ living his life in them.
- Renew their thinking about all that is being accomplished by their godly response to the tribulations.

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Session 27: The Hope of the Glory of God

(Note: Mike refers to this under the old system as Establishment, Part 10, Session 27).

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What is being accomplished by their godly response?

Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

We rejoice in what? We “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” What is that “glory” that we “hope” for? When we were justification unto eternal life, that glory is only a hope, which means we do not, at that time, possess it.

Romans 8:24 *For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*

That “glory” is Christ being formed in us; “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Let us return to the Romans 5 passage. In verses 1-2 we saw that when we were justified, we have a future hope of glory, which is Christ dwelling in our hearts; living is life in us. Now, let us continue to read.

Romans 5:3 *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

We see that Christ in us is how we are able to handle tribulations. And when that happens, those tribulations which are meant to overwhelm us and make us quit, instead produce patience. No wonder Paul wrote Romans 8:25.

Romans 8:25 *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

This is a very general explanation of the memory verses. They need to be understood in order to make them easier to memorize.

Now that we have rounded out the main reasons we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, let us now begin to examine what we should pray for in this dispensation of grace and how to do that.

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