

Prayer

I recently came across one of the best articles I ever read concerning prayer, in an old volume of *Unsearchable Riches* (1934, Volume 25). The article was written by George Rogers, and is entitled "Teach Us To Pray." I want to share a few quotes from the article.

"Prayer transforms the one who prays. It engages him with God and excludes all other objects."

"God is bountiful to all, yet on those who ask of Him He bestows blessings others do not receive."

"God's invitations to prayer, and His provisions for our approach and access to Him are found throughout the Scriptures. Since man became estranged God has ever been telling His erring humanity of the one Way of return to Him. The Way Himself said, 'No man is coming to the Father except through me.'"

"The purpose of all the ritual offerings and of the sacrifice of Christ Himself was to give us access to God ... it is through Him that reconciled Jew and Gentile both have their access, in one spirit, to the Father. In true prayer we get access to God and audience with Him ... God invites us to approach Him. That involves turning away from what is opposed to Him. Prayer is the culminating point of our drawing nigh to God."

"How much men lose by neglect of prayer only God knows. For He is still a Rewarder of those who are seeking Him out."

"Scripture is the best manual of prayer, familiarizing its readers with the men who prayed, and recording prayers that are models."

"The value of prayer may be known by the fact that the world, the flesh, and the devil are so persistently opposed to it."

"Saints have been ensnared into argument when they should have been praying."

"Reasoning is never so vicious as when it is substituted for obedience. A general said to his subordinates, 'You have shown me seven ways in which this task cannot be done. Now go and do it.'"

"Nowhere does Scripture reply to the doubts or objections which rationalism advances against the efficacy (effectiveness) of prayer ... And where else do we find such encouragements to pray, such promises, both conditional and unconditional, made to those who call upon God?"

“It is objected that prayer is superfluous because God knows more than we can tell Him; that if He is gracious and merciful we need not persuade Him to act accordingly ... A complete answer is that God invites us to ask of Him.”

“Such misconceive God’s sovereignty as a fatalism ... They forget that prayer is one of His laws, and that He not only invites to prayer, but inspires it.”

“Books on prayer may be profitably read if one does not merely enjoy what he reads without praying. There is no substitute for prayer. The reading of this article is a waste of time if it does not incite to prayer.”

What wonderful insights into the matter of prayer. I personally have many books on my shelf concerning prayer, and have read many of these books and some additional articles. As Mr. Rogers points out, there is much discussion and debate about prayer ... how it works and what it accomplishes or does not accomplish ... and yet despite our discussions, disagreements, misunderstandings and other shortcomings, clearly Scripture calls us to pray.

Some may criticize those of us who believe that God will ultimately save **all** at the end of the ages, thinking that such beliefs eliminate the need for prayer or the need to share the evangel (gospel). But as God systematically works all things toward His goal and purpose to reconcile all, and to become All in all ... we are called to pray. Every biblical model we turn to in God’s Word, including Paul, prayed.

May these thoughts written many years ago by Mr. Rogers cause us to consider what the Word of God tells us concerning prayer, and may his article lead us to prayer!

Unsearchable Riches

I have read many books and publications that explore God’s Word, and I cherish most my complete set of back issues of “Unsearchable Riches” magazine. The articles are some of the most insightful and detailed you will find, and represent a true exploration of the pure Word of God, eliminating as many human biases as possible. First published in 1909, the magazine is still published by Concordant Publishing Concern. Write to them for subscription information.

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Concordant also publishes and has available the Concordant Literal New Testament, and many of the individually-published Old Testament books in the Concordant Version.

You may also want to inquire with the Concordant Publishing Concern as to the availability of used back issues of “Unsearchable Riches.”

- Bob Evely -