

Prayer

Psalms 96:8-9 is a powerful passage that depicts how God should be approached in worship. Though prayer is not specifically mentioned, it would be included as worship is generically addressed.

When we come before God in prayer, we do so with various assumptions that are biblically based. We recognize that God exists. We acknowledge our dependence upon Him. We must know that He both hears and answers our prayers (though maybe not with the answer we desire). Through all this we realize and take great comfort in knowing that He loves us.

Limited space will not allow an in-depth discussion of prayer, even if we discuss only prayer as it relates to public worship. Let us suffice it to say that God expects and demands much of us as we come before Him through this act of worship. We must be both honest and sincere in what we say, lest we be seen in the same light as some in His day (Matt. 6:5). We must approach Him humbly. The posture (bowed head; even bended knee) reflects our understanding of His sovereignty. We are not praying to a “big buddy.” We must also pray with the understanding (1 Cor. 14:15). Do we know what we are asking? Is it appropriate? Is it scriptural? Does it contradict other references in the New Testament?

Prayer is powerful! It can avail much (James 5:17). As with other acts and aspects of worship, may we be those who take such things seriously and receive the benefit that God intended for those who are His.

Outline:

I. What is Prayer? – 1 Tim. 2:1-3

II. How Should We Pray?

- A. Sincerely
- B. Humbly
- C. With Understanding
- D. God’s Will
- E. In the name of Christ
- F. In Faith

III. Our Prayers in Worship: For what should we pray?

Sunday P.M. – Isaiah