



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

The Church: Her Worship in Prayer and Thanksgiving

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HOMWORK: READ CHAPTER 39



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The Church: Her Worship in Prayer and Thanksgiving

- Old Testament
- Prayer
 - a pleading with God to observe and do what He has promised He would do
- Thanksgiving
 - offering of a sacrifice to God in thanksgiving for what He has done
 - appreciation of the person of God

- New Testament
- Prayer
 - is now in Christ's name
 - involves the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - the believer abides in Christ and His word abides in the believer
 - the believer is to ask and Christ will perform the action
 - the believer appointed to prayer
- Thanksgiving
 - Christ gave thanks to God
 - rendered to God for His many blessings
 - offered to God continually and for all things



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- Based on the divine covenants of God
- Based on the character of God
- example Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 8:22-26
 - O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like You
 - keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants
 - O God of Israel, let Your word, I pray, be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant, my father David
- example of Moses' prayer in Exodus 32:11-14
 - Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel
 - Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself,
 - I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens
 - all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants
 - they shall inherit it forever



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- Prayer under grace - overview
 - new ground of prayer after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ and giving of the Holy Spirit
 - new relations between the Godhead and the believer
 - joined to the Lord as members of His body
 - all believers are in a favored position in Christ
 - is one of the blessings of the believer's life under grace
- Prayer under grace will be "in Christ's name" John 16:24 & 26
 - Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive
 - In that day you will ask in My name





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• Prayer under grace involves the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- offered to the Father John 16:23
- in the name of the Son John 16:23
- in the power of the Holy Spirit Jude 1:20

• Order in prayer is not arbitrary

- prayer is to be “through Him” not “to Him”
 - prayer is to be “in My name” John 14:13-14
 - prayer is to be “by Him” not “to Him”
 - by means of the Holy spirit Jude 1:20

Prayer in the New Testament



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• Prayer under grace - conditional aspect - John 15:7

- if you abide in Me
- and My words abide in you
- ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you

• Prayer under grace - divine arrangement - John 14:12-14

- the works that I do, he (believer) will do also
- greater works than these he (believer) will do
- because I go to the Father
- whatever you ask in My name
- that will I do
- that the Father may be glorified in the Son
- if you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it

Prayer in the New Testament



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• Prayer under grace - appointed of God - John 15:16

- you did not choose Me
- but I chose you
- appointed you that you would go and bear fruit
- and that your fruit would remain
- so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name
- He may give to you

Prayer in the New Testament



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• The Prayer of Thanksgiving - Overview

- Thanksgiving is the voluntary expression of heartfelt gratitude for benefit received
- Thanksgiving is in no way a payment for benefits received
- Thanksgiving is the gracious acknowledgment of the fact that the one who had received the benefit is indebted to the giver

• The Prayer of Thanksgiving - Old Testament

- Sacrifice of thanksgiving Lev. 7:12-15, PS 107:22, PS 116:17
- Appreciation of the person of God
 - --- and give thanks to His holy name PS 30:4, PS 97:12
 - let us come before His presence with thanksgiving PS 95:2
 - enter His gates with thanksgiving PS 100:4
 - at midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous ordinances PS 119:62



The Church: Her Worship in Prayer and Thanksgiving

• Prayers of Thanksgiving - New Testament

- Christ's practice of giving thanks for food Matt. 15:36, Mark 8:6, John 6:23
- Apostle Paul also practiced giving thanks for food Acts 27:35, Rom. 14:6
- Thanksgiving rendered to God in the New Testament
 - thanks be to God for His indescribable gift 2 Cor. 9:15
 - thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 15:57
 - thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ 2 Cor. 8:16
 - We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers 1 Thess 1:12
 - I thank my God in all my remembrance of you Phil 1:3

• Two important features of thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving should be offered to God continually Heb. 13:15
- Thanksgiving should be offered for all things Eph. 5:20, 1 Thess. 5:18



Prayer

- Prayer to God must come from God. There can be no prayer in the full assurance of faith apart from the known will of God in the matter. M. Stanford
- I do not think that a petition that misses the mind of God will ever be answered (1 John 5:14). Personally, I feel the need of trusting Him to lead me in prayer as well as in other matters. J. Fraser
- The prayer life is the expression of the Spirit of Christ through the believer to the Father in Heaven. As there is growth in Christ, there will increasingly be prayer in the Spirit (Rom. 8:26). M. Stanford
- We are not praying down here on earth to One who is a long way off in Heaven. We are one with Him there and He is one with us here. T.L.M.
- In order for us to pray according to His will, we must first know His will; not only that, but His blessed will must become our will. M. Stanford
- Prayer is the fellowship of an intimate, living union; as with all of the Christian life, it must be carried on in dependence upon the Holy Spirit. M. Stanford