

PRAYER -- LESSON THREE

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION

or

[What We May Pray For]

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. In our last lesson we learned that the very heart of prayer is a sense of need.
  - 1. Notice again the word supplication and its association with the word prayer: Phil.4:4-7; Eph.6:18; I Timothy 2:1.
  - 2. In prayer man seeks to satisfy his needs by calling upon God, Who "*shall supply every need*". Phil.4:19.
- B. The range of prayer is the same as human needs, both physically and spiritually.
  - 1. "*In everything*" -- Phil.4:6.
  - 2. In this lesson we shall consider some of the things pertaining to the physical needs of man for which we may pray.

II. DISCUSSION: -[Although we are not to place undue emphasis on our physical needs and cravings, we may pray for the following]:

- A. "Daily bread" -- Matt.6:11
  - 1. We must recognize our dependence upon God for physical sustenance! Acts 17:25, 28.
  - 2. Our asking is limited to "daily" or "needful" bread -- Matt.6:11; Prov.30:8-9.
  - 3. Realizing the Father knows our needs and thus limiting our requests to "daily" needs, frees us from the shackles of worry and anxiety -- Matt.6:32; Matt.7:7-11; Phil.4:4-7. [Paul himself serves as a good example -- Phil.4:11.]
  - 4. Two extremes to be avoided:
    - a) Must avoid undue emphasis on the physical as suggested above -- Lk.12:13; Matt.6:19-34; Matt.4:4.
    - b) Must avoid the other extreme of "no work" to accompany our prayers! Gen.3:19; I Thes.4:11-12; 2 Thes.3:10-12; Eph.4:28; Acts 20:34-35. (It has been well suggested that "*prayer without work is dead*".)
- B. Rest -- Rom.15:32.
- C. Health -- 2 Cor.12:8; James 5:14-15; 3 John 2.
- D. Deliverance from harm and suffering -- Luke 21:35; [cp. Matt.24:40; Mk.13:18, 33]; 2 Thes.3:2; Rom.15:31; Matt.26:39; I Tim.2:2.
- E. To be reunited with friends and loved ones -- I Thes.3:10; Rom.1:9-12; Philemon 22.

III. CONCLUSION:

This is not set forth as an exhaustive list. We merely note that the Bible plainly substantiates the fact that we may pray for physical necessities. This again is something we should appreciate, and we should be thankful for this

privilege. We shall go on to consider some spiritual needs for which we may pray in our next lesson.