

## PRIVATE PRAYER.

Private prayer (such as men secretly offer unto God by themselves) requires no specific place, although Jesus Christ commands when we pray to enter into our chamber, and to close the door, and so to pray unto our Father secretly (Matt. 6:6).

Whereby he would have us choose for our prayers such places as might offer least occasion to distract us from prayer; and also that we should expel of our minds, in time of our prayer, all vain cogitations.

For otherwise Jesus Christ himself does observe no special place of prayer; for we find him sometimes pray in Mount Olivet, sometimes in the desert, sometimes in the temple, and in the garden.

Peter chose to pray upon the top of the house, and Paul prayed in prison, and was heard of God (Acts 10:9). Who also commands men to pray in all places, lifting up unto God pure and clean hands; as we find that the prophets and most holy men did, whensoever danger or necessity required.

## APPOINTED PLACES TO PRAY IN MAY NOT BE NEGLECTED.

But public and common prayers should be used in the place appointed for the assembly, from whence whosoever negligently extracts himself is in no wise excusable. I mean not, that to be absent from that place is sin, because that place is more holy than another; for the whole earth created by God is equally holy. But the promise made, that, "Wheresoever two or three be gathered together in my name, there shall I be in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20), condemns all such as abandon the congregation gathered in his name.

But mark well this word "gathered;" I mean not, to hear piping, singing, or playing; nor to patter upon beads, or books whereof they have no understanding; nor to commit idolatry, honouring that for God which is no god indeed. For with such will I neither join myself in common prayer, nor in receiving external sacraments; for in so doing I should affirm their superstition and abominable idolatry, which I, by God's grace, never will do, neither counsel others to do, unto the very end.

## WHAT IT IS TO BE GATHERED IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

This congregation which I mean, should be gathered in the name of Jesus Christ: that is, to laud and magnify God the Father, for the infinite benefits they have received by his only Son our Lord.

In this congregation the mystical and last Supper of Jesus Christ should be distributed without superstition or any more ceremonies than he himself used, and his apostles after him.

And in distribution thereof, in this congregation, necessities should be recognized of the poor among them, and support provided, during the time of their convention, and it should be distributed amongst them.

Also, in this congregation should be made common prayers, such as all men hearing might understand; that the hearts of all, subscribing to the voice of one, might, with unfeigned and fervent mind, say, "Amen."

Whosoever does withdraw himself from such a congregation (but alas, where shall it be found?) does declare himself to be no member of Christ's body. **John Knox**

# Pastor's Commentary And Outline

We are being taught in our prayer meetings to come to God **when we are empty** and in need. And also **when we are full** and have need of little. The first is a cause for supplication and request, the other for thanksgiving and mediation for the needs of others. Luke 18:1

It is good for the saints to draw near to God; it is not only good because it is their duty, but because it yields their souls a spiritual pleasure; and it is also of great profit and advantage to them: It is often an ordinance of God, and which he owns for the quickening the graces of his spirit, for the restraining and subduing the corruptions of our hearts, and for the bringing of our souls into nearer communion and fellowship with himself. 2 Cor 13:14

Satan has often felt the force and power of this piece of our spiritual armour; and it is, indeed, the last which the believer is directed to make use of. Praying souls are profitable in families, neighborhoods, churches, and common-wealths, when prayerless ones are in a great measure useless. The believer has the utmost encouragement to this work he can desire; he may come to God, not as on a seat of justice, but as on a throne of grace. Heb 4:16

Christ is the Mediator between God and him, his way of access to God, and his Advocate with the Father; the Spirit is his Guide, Director, and Assister; he has many exceeding great and precious promises to plead with God; nor need he doubt of a kind reception, a gracious audience, and a proper answer, though never so mean and unworthy in himself; since the Lord will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise his prayer. – John Gill (1697-1771) from "A Discourse on Prayer"

**Outline for the sermon: "Jehoshaphat a vessel of mercy #2"**

**1. Vessels of mercy see God's glory in their weakness and sinfulness:**

Rom 9:15-24 Job, Jacob, Peter,

**2. The framework of our text is Sovereignty and counsel:** 2 Chron: 18:8,9 /  
Prov 15:22 /

**3. The quintessential symbol of Sovereignty / The Throne;** Isa 6:1 / Dan 7:9/ Isa  
66:1 / Ezekiel 1:26 / Jer 17:12 / Rev 39 times: Ps 9:7 "A place of judgment"  
Righteousness/ mercy/grace. Ps 89:14

**4. The scope of His Sovereignty? All things!** 1chron29:10-12 /2chron 20:6 Cre-  
ation/ Providence/ Salvation: Gen 1;1 / Ps 104:27-30 / Mt:10:29,30 /Acts 17:28  
Jonah 2:9/ Ps 3;8/ Heb 12:2 - Col 1:15,16 -

**5. Purpose?:** His own glory/ His Son/ our eternal redemption: Rev 4:11 / Eph  
1:10-12 / Rom 11:36

**6. The great offence of the self righteous:** He is Sovereign over the wicked/  
wills of men! Prov 16:4 / Isa 45:7 / Isa 46:10-12 / 14: 24,26,27 / Ps 115:3 /  
135:5,6 / Acts 2:23

**7. The deception of men: an act of divine reprobation.** 2chron 18:19-21 / Job  
12:16/ Ezekiel 14:7-11/ 2Thess 2:11-13

**8. God has not called His elect to wrath but to obtain salvation:** 1Thes 5:6-11

**Prayer service 7:30-8:30 Tuesday nights here!**

**The Lord's table to be observed next week!**

Let's make sure the list downstairs for service is complete. We need your coop-  
eration to make this work

**Leadership Class**

We have postponed our scheduled class once again. My schedule has not al-  
lowed me to finish the outline for our meeting. Will inform you when the time  
is fixed. PJesse

**J is for Jesus**

Every week I go to church with my family to learn about Jesus who is God.  
We worship him, we sing about him, and we learn about him. There are many  
stories in the Bible that I love like David and Goliath, Moses and the Ten Com-  
mandments, The Nativity, but my all-time favorite is Easter.

Every Easter little kids wake up expecting a bunny to show up at their house  
then they run around looking for eggs, but that has nothing to do with the true  
meaning of Easter. The true meaning of Easter is about Jesus' death burial and  
Resurrection. It all started when Jesus was born, he was perfect from birth to  
death, even when he was 12 he stayed in the temple to talk to the leaders of the  
temple. As he got older he taught many other people of different social classes.  
He told people that his kingdom was not on earth but in heaven.

The People wanted a political king not the kind of king Jesus was, because  
of this some people wanted to kill him. Jesus knew that he had to die because  
the whole world was in sin and the penalty of sin is death but if a perfect man  
died in the place of sinful men then their sins would be forgiven. So Jesus died  
and because of this all those who trust Him, their sins are forgiven. This Story  
taught me something very important

Don't be fooled parents, they get it! Class project of Isaac Demma