

Preparing for Partnership: Persistent Prayer.8
Romans 1:9-10; Matthew 6:9-13

Prelude *Not Yet I But Through Christ in Me*

Call to Worship: Set your heart on worship
Normal to set our heart on success
Let us now set our hearts on worship

1 Chronicles 22:19 (ESV) *Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD.*”

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Prepare for worship

1. Read God’s word and pray
2. Remind yourself who God is

Exodus 3:1-6 (ESV) ¹ *Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.* ² *And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.* ³ *And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.”* ⁴ *When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”* ⁵ *Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”* ⁶ *And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

Leviticus 10:1-3 (ESV) ¹ *Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them.* ² *And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.* ³ *Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.*

John 4:23-24 (ESV) *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those*

who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

3. Remind yourself who you are

You are not entitled to worship

Worship is a blood-bought privilege you do not deserve

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV) *Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 9:13-14 (ESV) *For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

Hebrews 10:19-22 (ESV) *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

We worship not only because Jesus died for us but through Jesus Who died for us. We ought to remember each time we gather that we are not the point of worship: Christ is! And if we are not prepared to give Him our undivided devotion, as we usually are not, we owe Him not only our worship but our preparation for worship.

So then, fellow followers of Jesus, let us set our minds and hearts to seek the Lord our God. Let us prepare and worship. There will be time for you to fellowship amongst yourselves when the service is over, let the time before and during worship belong to Christ!

Invocation

Exodus 34:5-7 (ESV) *The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and*

the fourth generation.”

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NIV) *He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.*

Welcome/Announcements

Clean Teams Coordinator Needed

May Birthday Fellowship Dinner

Church Business Meeting

Bill Doucette Memorial Service (To be catered)

HYMN G#185 *Here is Love*

THE LORD’S SUPPER

(1 Cor 15:22) In Adam, all sin and all die. In Christ shall all be made alive.

(Romans 6:23) All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. On account of sin, it is given unto every man once to die and then comes judgment. But, for those who by the work of God through Spirit of God according to the gospel of God but their faith in Christ the Son of God, there is now, therefore, no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Those whom Christ sets free are free indeed. Let us stand fast, therefore, in the freedom wherewith Christ has set us free!

We are free from the fear of death. Free from slavery to sin and guilt. Free to know God and love God. Free to trust God and receive His promises. We are free to stand before Him without fear in worship, to live before Him without worry in the world, to endure before Him without shame in the glory and wonder of eternity.

HYMN G#289 *In the Cross Alone I Glory*

Pastoral Prayer with the Congregation

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ

Focus on the Word

Romans 1:9-10 (ESV) *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.*

Matthew 6:9-13 (ESV) *Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Message *Preparations for Partnership: Persistent Prayer.8 (Sanctification)*

Two things

1. Remind you that God makes prayer in our lives a preparation for partnership with Him in the work He is doing in us, in the church, and in the world. We've seen in Romans that God prepares His people for partnership with Him by growing genuine gratitude in us and by developing persistent prayer from us.

As we have focused on prayer, specifically the Lord's Prayer, we have heard Jesus instruct us in prayer. There are four petitions we must learn and love to set before God:

Ask God to enact His sovereignty in our lives.

Ask God to enact His supply in our lives.

Ask God to enact His salvation in our lives.

Ask God to enact His sanctification in our lives.

This kind of prayer acknowledges who God is and how dependent on Him we are. It focuses on Christ and what God has done and is doing for His people through His Son. Everything we ask of God in this prayer hinges on the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. Prayer is never a grocery list for greedy people. Prayer is an act of worship from the redeemed heart of saved sinners to the worthy one who acts in their lives for God's glory and for their good.

2. The second thing I want to set before you this morning is this: consider carefully the last line of this prayer. ***And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*** There is a great deal in just this line and we will spend more time with it next Sunday, Lord willing, but I want to ask you to focus in this coming week on two questions:

How will God deliver me from evil?

What do I owe God for His deliverance?

I have asked you this morning to set your heart on worship and prepare.

I have asked you to consider Christ and the cross.

Now I am asking you to spend this week pondering God's ongoing work in your life and what it means for you and how you live that life.

Let's pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.