

Prepared To Pray With A Purpose Part 1

- ❖ Purpose of Prayer: Prayer is simply talking to God. Christian's who relies on the Bible as their source of revelation about God finds the purpose, practice & meaning of prayer in the teachings of Jesus.
- ❖ The Necessity of Prayer 1Thess. 5:17
 - At the very least, Paul instructs prayer to be part of our daily life. But that's not easy. As soon as our eyes open in the morning we're often in a rush. Get ready! Go! And we're off to work or school or the chores of the day.
 - God of the Morning Prayer: "We pray in the morning to give the first stirrings of our minds to God. Before anything else, let the thought of God gladden you. "Begin the day by seeking God's blessing, the saint advises. God meets us in the morning not as a taskmaster, but as a loving presence that strengthens and gladdens us for the day. Ps. 23
 - Prayer - and it may be just a short prayer - enables us to begin the day, not alone, but with God.
 - It raises and gladdens our tired spirits that so easily lose their appetite for life.
 - It provides a strengthening grace so that we enter the day, not groaning, but hoping in our Savior and our God.
 - "Why are you cast down my soul, why groan within me? Hope in God. I will praise him still, my Savior and my God." Ps. 42
 - What about living our day wisely? We need wisdom in our words, thoughts & in the choices we make. Why not ask for the wisdom of God?
 - "Lord, teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." Ps. 90
 - Let us begin our day in prayer!

- ❖ God of the Evening Prayer: Another traditional time to pray & for good reason. Whether we know it or not, we often review our day in the evening.
 - Usually it's an uneven picture, isn't it? There are good experiences. And there are hurts, disappointments, and failures. Evening is a natural time to review them all.
 - Unfortunately some of us lose evening's reflective opportunities by working day & night. We don't slow down. Or we become addicted to television (or the Internet). Trapped in someone else's world, we don't see our own. So an opportunity for reflection goes unused.
 - Dialogue with Daddy
 - The evening is a good time for dialogue with God. The end of the day quietly raises questions, though we may hardly be aware of them. "Have I accomplished anything?" What have I done? There's so much still to do. Is it worth it?" we ask. And sleep, the sister of death, reminds us that this life ends. What comes next?
 - Daddy God wise counselor: The God of the evening is a wise counselor & confidant who, like a mother holding her child, calms our fears & offers us hope.
 - "O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty; I busy not myself with great things too sublime for me. Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted my soul like a weaned child. Like a weaned child on its mother's lap, so is my soul within me." Ps. 131
 - Like pilgrims after one day's journey, we stop to rest. And as we do, God promises life, not death.
 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge, of whom should I be afraid? One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life." Ps. 27
 - The evening hours are a great time for prayer.

Pastor Marv Hodges, D.Div