

**Ezekiel 26; Lord's Day 45**  
**PRAYER: GRATEFUL NECESSITY**

- I. The idea.
  - A. Because the covenant is relationship of friendship, prayer is our side in that holy conversation with the covenant God.
  - B. Prayer is the primary way to thank God.
  - C. Prayer is the means God wants us to use to receive grace and the Holy Spirit.
- II. How we pray is determined by the One to Whom we pray.
  - A. Introduction: prayer is an holy art.
  - B. Prayer must be sincere – not mere formality nor seeking the approval of men.
  - C. Prayer must be in truth, i.e., as instructed in God=s Word and to God as He has revealed Himself.
  - D. Pray with humility (no self-righteousness or pride - Pharisee & publican, Luke 18:9-14).
  - E. Prayer must be grounded on the merit and worthiness of Jesus Christ, the only Mediator.
  - F. Prayer is to be without ceasing, so it expresses the attitude of our life, consciously living as God wants.
- III. Pray for all the things He has commanded us to ask of Him.
  - A. While prayer does not change God, it does show that we know He wills us to ask “according to His will” (I John 5:14).
    - 1. He wills that His children and wife live conscious of His relationship to them, and theirs to Him.
    - 2. According to His will means that we may not ask for what we want, but He commands us to ask for.
  - B. Primarily for spiritual needs: His grace and Spirit.
  - C. Live more and more in the attitude of prayer.
  - D. And be assured that your Father hears and answers your prayers before you finish (Isa. 65:24).