

SCRIPTURE: Malachi 1

SINGING: 225:1-3 – 86:1-3 – 57:1-3 – 150:1-4

Opening observations on prayer...

A. Approaching God in prayer is *dangerous work* (Lev. 10:1-2)

1. It is an ***absolute must*** to honor the Divine royal code of approach

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiness by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. Heb. 10:19-20 (John 10:9; 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 7:25)

B. Using the proper address is crucial also (Mal. 1:6; Mark 10:17-18)

C. Faith is key aspect in prayer (Heb. 11:6)

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (James 1:5-7; compare with Mark. 9:22-23)

THE ADDRESS OF PRAYER (2)

I. Why an address? II. What is the address?

II. WHAT IS THE ADDRESS IN LORD'S PRAYER?

A. Jesus' teaching majored in revealing God as Father

1. The Lord Jesus *nurtured His disciples in knowledge of their Father*

a. Matt 5:45-48; 6:1-18; 6:32; 7:11

2. Why did Jesus *major on Father's Name?*

a. Because it is God's *most intimate Name* for His Church

b. Because we all are familiar with *the importance of a father*

B. Jesus' address *Our Father which art in heaven* as **two main purposes**

1. **to remind us to always display reverence (Mal. 1:6-8)**

a. compare *speaking to God to meeting a high-ranking person*

b. always bear in mind: *He is not on our level* (Is. 6:1-3; Gen. 18:27)

c. as God is *in heaven*, all approach to God in prayer is *sacred*

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, in visible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen (1 Tim. 1:17; also 6:16)

d. true for *public worship, family and private worship*

2. to remind us always to have *childlike confidence*

a. if saved, you possess the privilege of *having God as your Father*

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (Col. 1:12; as well as Eph. 1:3)

b. this confidence in the Father's character and His adoption of us bring *liberty to call upon Him as Father*

c. if you are called by grace, don't live under the *privilege of grace*

- grasp and use privilege of Romans 8:31-32

If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.

Concluding thoughts on *Our Father*

A. It means there is *one Father with many children*

1. Do we practice in prayer *the communion of saints*?

2. Do we live with God's other children like Rom. 15:5 & Phil. 2:2-3?

B. It means there are *many people who don't have God as Father in Christ*

1. Bible knows nothing of a *universal Fatherhood of all mankind*

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love Me!

Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father ye will do.

(See John 8:42, 44; also Matt. 7:22)

2. Let this naked truth as Jesus stated it so sharply alarm your soul!

C. It means that **though content of LD** is appropriate for all to pray, the use of this address (Father in Christ) is reserved to believers

