

I. Introduction. v. 18a

II. Give praise and thanks to our sovereign gracious God. v. 18-24.

- A. You need to spend time alone with the LORD. v. 18a Mt. 6:6**
1. You don't have to go to a particular place to pray. Eph. 2:18 3:12 He. 4:16 Jo. 4:21
 2. Why is it so hard for us to pray?
- B. The LORD has done great things for you. v. 18b-21**
1. David is astonished at how the LORD has chosen and elevated him from a lowly place. *Who am I?* v. 18b,8 5:12 Ex. 3:11 I Sam. 2:7-8
 2. The LORD has chosen to bless you, in spite of your unworthiness. Eph. 2:1-21
 - a. You were in rebellion against God, excluded from God's promises. Eph. 2:1ff
 - b. God in His mercy sovereignly gave you new spiritual life and included you among His covenant people. Eph. 2:4-6,13ff I Pe. 2:9-10 Ga. 3:29 Ro. 11:17ff
 - c. Who made you to differ? I Cor. 4:7 1:30-31 Eph. 1:3ff Ro. 9:15ff
 - d. Approach God with humility. Luke 18:9-14
 3. David praises God for revealing a glorious future for his house. v. 19
 4. The LORD has revealed a glorious future for you in Christ. I Co. 15:50ff I Jo. 3:2 Phil. 3:20-21 I Th. 5:16ff II Tim. 2:12
 5. David is speechless with praise. v. 20 Amos 3:2 Gen. 18:19 Ps. 139:4 Ro. 8:26
 6. God is also sovereign in revealing Himself and His plan. v. 21b I Co. 2:14
 7. Only a God who is sovereign over all things can speak of the future with certainty. Eph. 1:11b Ro. 8:28 Isa. 46:8ff Ps. 115:3 135:6 Acts 2:23 4:27-28 Pr. 21:1
 8. The LORD has acted for the sake of His own glory. v. 21a
 9. Proper understanding of God's sovereign election evokes humble heartfelt praise. Eph. 1:3ff 3:20 I Co. 1:30-31
- C. The LORD is great. v. 22 I Sam. 2:2 Ps. 18:31**
1. There is none like the LORD God. Ex. 15:11ff Deut. 3:24 4:32ff Ps. 86:10
 2. There is no other God besides the LORD. Isa. 45:5-7
 3. This strongly refutes postmodern pluralism which claims that all religions and all gods are essentially the same.
- D. The LORD has done great things for His people. v. 23-24 Ps. 33:12**
1. Because the LORD is unique His people are unique. v. 23a Amos 3:2 Dt. 4:7,33-34
 2. He blesses His people for His Name's sake, in spite of their unworthiness. v. 23b
 - a. There is nothing about Israel which made them deserve to be chosen. Dt. 7:6-8
 - b. God's election is solely by His grace and for His own glory.
 3. He has redeemed Israel out of slavery in Egypt. v. 23c Dt. 6:12
 4. He has established His people forever. v. 24a
 - a. Does this mean that every descendant of Abraham (and David) will enjoy God's covenant blessings forever? Ro. 2:28-29 11:7,20 Mt. 21:33ff
 - b. Participation in the blessings of the covenant is contingent upon faith. Gal. 3:7
 5. He has become their God. v. 24b Gen. 17:7-8 Ex. 6:7 Jer. 31:33 I Pe. 2:10
 6. In Christ, God has redeemed us out of slavery to sin and death. I Pe. 1:18-19 Gal. 3:13 Ro. 3:24 Eph. 1:7 Heb. 9:12 Ro. 6:6,17-18 I Co. 6:19-20
 7. Through Christ, we are now citizens of God's holy nation and heirs of God's promises, along with believing Israelites. I Pe. 2:5-10 Eph. 2:11ff Ro. 11:17ff 2 Co. 1:20 Gal. 3:29 Heb. 8:7ff Jer. 31:31ff
 8. God preserves us, His covenant people, forever. Mt. 16:18 John 10:28

III. Pray according to God's promises. v. 25-29

- A. David asks the LORD to do as He has promised. v. 25-29
 - 1. David asks that the LORD would bless his house forever. v. 25,29
 - 2. David seeks the glory of the LORD's name. v. 26 Ps. 72:18-19 Ezek. 36:22-23
 - 3. God's promise emboldens David to pray. v. 27
 - 4. David expresses faith in God's promise. v. 28 Gen. 15:6 Ex. 34:6 John 17:17
 - 5. David's prayer is answered ultimately in Christ. II Co. 1:20 Heb. 10:12 Ps. 132:17

- B. We should follow David's example in prayer.
 - 1. Use God's Word, especially His promises, as the basis of our prayer.
 - 2. Pray for the glory of His Name. Mt. 6:9
 - 3. Pray boldly. Heb. 4:16 Eph. 2:18
 - 4. Pray with faith in God's Word.
 - 5. Pray with patience.

- C. Why pray for that which the LORD has already promised to do?
 - 1. If God is sovereign and His future plan is certain, why does prayer matter?
 - 2. Through prayer we express our faith in God's promises.
 - 3. Our prayers are a means by which God accomplishes His plan. Phil. 1:19 Phm. 1:22 II Co. 1:11 Eph. 6:19 Js. 5:16ff Daniel 9:1-19 Ps. 89
 - 4. God's promises encourage us to pray.
 - 5. Prayer changes us. Phil. 4:6-7

- D. For what should we pray?
 - 1. Our prayers are often too mundane. We fail to pray for what matters most.
 - 2. We need to learn what God has (and has not) promised so that we can pray.
 - 3. Learn how to pray from biblical examples of prayer.
 - 4. Pray for your continued sanctification. Phil. 1:6 Rom. 6:1ff
 - 5. Pray for God's Kingdom to come and for His will to be done. Mt. 6:10 Rev. 22:20
 - 6. Pray for the success of the Gospel as it goes forth. Is. 55:11 2 Th. 3:1-2 Eph. 6:19
 - 7. Pray for Christ's church. Mt. 16:18

IV. Conclusion: David teaches us to pray.

Discussion questions

- 1. How does David respond when he learns that he will not get to fulfill his dream to build a house for God?
- 2. How specifically does David's prayer serve as a model for us?
- 3. To which of the LORD's attributes does David refer in this prayer?
- 4. What does this prayer teach about the practical application of the doctrine of election?
- 5. In what sense has the LORD elevated us from a lowly place?
- 6. What great destiny has been revealed for us?
- 7. In what sense are we the LORD's redeemed nation?
- 8. For which of God's revealed promises should we pray?
- 9. Why pray for what God has already promised?