

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20).

Christ will not live in the parlor of our hearts if we entertain the devil in the cellar of our thoughts.

I WILL COME TO YOU

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow toward your holy temple in the fear of you (Psalm 5:7).

MAKE STRAIGHT MY PATH

Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me (Psalm 5:8).

Worshipping and praying to God is unnatural for human beings.

Let us cultivate the *spirit* of prayer which is even better than the *habit* of prayer. We should begin to pray before we kneel down, and we should not cease when we rise up.

“For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield” (Psalm 5:11-12).

Sermon Notes

STARTING THE DAY WITH PRAYER

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42).

1-3 David asks that God will hear him.

11-12 David rejoices in God.

4-5 God hates evil.

9-10 God hates evil doers.

7 David promises to come to God

8 David asks God to make straight his path.

GOD HEAR ME

Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch (Psalm 5:1-3).

GOD, I REJOICE IN YOU

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield (Psalm 5:11-12).

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words (Romans 8:26).

Words are not the essence but the garment of prayer.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son (Genesis 22:9-10).

Standing in proper order in the presence of God with a certain note of vigilance to “keep watch”, and [this] sets the tone for how to begin the day of prayer.

GOD HATES EVIL

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man (Psalm 5:4-6).

GOD CONDEMNS EVILDOERS

For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you (Psalm 5:9-10).

“You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong” (Habakkuk 1:13).

“For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue” (Psalm 5:9).

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:10-18).

“God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector” (Luke 18:11).

“God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (Luke 18:13).

Who then are the other sinners?