

Sermon Notes – February 21, 2016

Review

- ⇒ We saw two weeks ago that true believers do not ultimately find God's commands to be _____; rather, Christ offers genuine _____ and _____ (Matt 11:28-30).
- ⇒ In our study last week in I John 5:6-12 we saw that God speaks _____ about Christ and that anyone who refuses to believe the gospel calls God a _____.
- ⇒ We also saw that God has tied together _____ and _____. You cannot have one without the other. Period.

Hearing God's Word: I John 5:13-15

In 1974 Pastor Lehman Strauss wrote a little book entitled "Sense and Nonsense About Prayer" - a fitting title in light of how many misperceptions we have about prayer.

- ⇒ Many people see God as a cosmic _____.
- ⇒ Many people read the Bible and select one text as the "_____" on prayer, largely ignoring other texts.
- ⇒ Others believe that prayer is largely about getting certain _____ or _____ lined up so God will do what we want.
- ⇒ Sometimes people use prayer to _____ their own responsibility (think "school tests" here!).
- ⇒ Some people over-analyze their words in prayer and worry about themselves or others "saying it wrong."
- ⇒ Some simply give up and don't pray at all—except in emergencies or as a last resort.

Confidence in God Leads to Confident Prayer (5:13)

- ⇒ Are you trusting Christ as your Savior? Then you belong to God for _____ and _____. Believe it!
Cf. Hebrews 7:25.

I John 5:13-15
Pastor Jay Mosser
Confidence in God Leads to Confident Prayer

- ⇒ A believer who prays is not calling on a God who is _____ or who needs to be _____ or who is _____ toward us. Every believer should know Hebrews 4:16!

Knowing the Word of God Helps Us Pray "According to His Will" (5:14-15)

- ⇒ Praying "according to His will" is not so much a _____ or "deeper life" exercise. Be cautious of those who want to "announce" God's will for your life. It had better line up with Scripture!
- ⇒ Take a look at the texts below. These are a great place to start!
 - Philippians 1:9-11
 - I Thessalonians 4:1-8
 - I Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - I Timothy 4:7
 - I Peter 1:14-15
 - I Peter 2:13-15
- ⇒ *Any* _____ in the Bible that is intended for all believers _____ the will of God for you and for other believers.
- ⇒ Think about this: How much do you *really* know about the best ways to accomplish God's purposes in the world, in your family, or in your own life? Prayer is a call for humility. Cf. Romans 11:33-36

Responding to God's Word:

- ⇒ Don't hesitate to ask God for specific things — even deliverance from painful things — BUT at the same time, pray with humility and an attitude of submission. God may have sent that difficult or painful circumstance specifically to humble you, to teach you greater faith, or in some other way to bring glory to His great name!
- ⇒ As you pray, ask God to give you spiritual eyes to recognize His greater work...the BIGGER picture that is far more significant than your flat tire or dead battery or broken pipes.
- ⇒ A movie recommendation...