

**SUBJECT:** The Book of Hebrews.

**TITLE:** The Privilege of Prayer.

**PROPOSITION:** To look at the privilege that we have in prayer.

**OBJECTIVE:** So we can appreciate the privilege we have.

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read the text.
2. Regarding the text.
  - (1) To be able to call upon God in prayer is truly a privilege.
    - A. We often take the privilege of prayer for granted.
    - B. All too often people wait for something bad to happen before they pray.
  - (2) Only children of God have the right to pray to God.
    - A. God does not hear sinners prayers (Jno. 9:31).
    - B. God heard Saul's prayers, but he didn't hear it as he hears his childrens prayers.
  - (3) Let us look at the privileges we have in prayer.
3. Reference to S.T.P.O.

**DISCUSSION: IN OUR STUDY LET US NOTICE--**

- I. THAT WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO GOD THE FATHER.
  1. Jesus taught his disciples to pray to the Father (Mt. 6:9).
    - (1) Some believe that we may pray to Mary the mother of Jesus, but we have no such authority, she was just a human (Mt. 12:47-49; Jno. 19:27).
    - (2) Some think that we may pray to Christ (Acts 7:51; Jno. 16:23).
  2. Today we are to follow the example that Jesus set forth (1 Pet. 2:21).
    - (1) This does not mean that we are to pray for the kingdom to come because it has already come (Col. 1:13).
    - (2) This does mean, however, that we are to pray directly to the Father, in the name of the Son.
  3. When we pray in this way our prayers are pleasing to God (Jno. 14:6).
- II. THAT WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD'S REVEALED WILL.
  1. The Bible should mean everything to the Christian.
    - (1) The idea that Christians are no longer interested in the Bible is a slap in the face to God because it is his revealed will to man (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
    - (2) We should hold the Bible in high esteem and be proud to be known as a people of the Book (Hos. 4:6; Acts 17:30,31; 2 Tim. 3:15; 2:15).
  2. The Bible instructs us how to pray.
    - (1) It tells us to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus (Jno. 16:23).
    - (2) It tells us to pray without ceasing and to pray in faith (1 Thess. 5:17; Jas. 1:6-8).
  3. The Bible should be consulted whenever we pray, for it is how God speaks to us and prayer is how we speak back to God.

- III. THAT WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYING TO ALMIGHTY GOD.

1. Because we are his children we have this privilege (Rom. 8:14).
  - (1) We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17).
  - (2) Our Father is above all (Eph. 4:6).
2. People criticize us for praying to God, but we needn't be ashamed (2 Tim. 2:12).
  - (1) We should be willing to stand up for God as strong soldiers of the cross (2 Tim. 2:3; Eph. 6:10-17).
  - (2) All too often we will refuse to pray in public for our food because we are afraid of what others might think or say (2 Tim. 4:10).
3. We have the privilege of praying to God, let us not be ashamed of that fact.

**CONCLUSION:**

SUMMARY: We have seen--

1. That we have the privilege of speaking directly to the Father.
2. That we have the privilege of praying according to God's revealed will.
3. That we have the privilege of praying to almighty God.

APPEAL: Prayer is something that we should never be ashamed of, it is how we speak to God. If we are going to walk with God, it only makes sense that we talk with him as well.

Preached at Belle, MO on July 12, 2009, morning service.