

Sunday, October 24, 2021

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Prayer and Praise Results in Freedom

Series: Ministry of Praise 2 **Text:** Acts 16

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE to develop the PERSONAL habits of prayer and praise.

Introduction:

~ Last week's devotional was from Psalm 100
– Enter His Courts with Praise

1. Praise from ALL Humankind
2. Praise Involves Service
3. Praise is in Response to the Spirit of Knowledge and Wisdom
4. Praise is Commanded as We Enter His Presence
5. Praise Rests on God's Character and His Promises

1. Obedience to God:

~ Psalm 1:1 – 3, *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (2) but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in it in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."*

Counsel of Jesus:

~ John 16:33, *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

~ Matthew 5:10 – 12, *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

~ Acts 16:6 – 10, Paul is Obedient to the of the Holy Spirit.

2. Opposition from the World and the Devil:

~ Acts 16:16 – 24: In the natural the opposition to Paul and the gospel message was businessmen looking at a loss of earnings, the rulers and then the crowd.

~ Proverbs 29:2, *"When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan."*

~ Consider the opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ; the religious leaders take offense at the teaching of our Lord, the seize him and take him to the civil authorities.

~ Notice the catalyst in this record! Acts 16:18 – 19, *"And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. (19) But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers."*

~ Ephesians 6:12, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."*

3. Observance of the Habit of Prayer and Praise:

~ Acts 16:16, *"As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling."*

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 19, *"Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit."*

~ Ephesians 5:17 – 21, *"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is, (18) and do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, (19) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

4. Open Conversion:

~ Acts 16:25 - 40

Conclusion:

2 Corinthians 12:7 – 9, *"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me to keep me from becoming conceited. (8) Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. (9) But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*