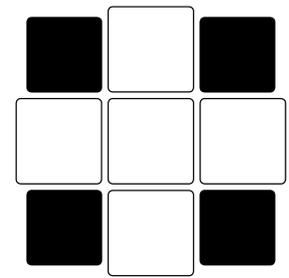


Prayer that is Extraordinary

Scripture: Zechariah 8:20–23

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Corroborating Texts: Galatians 4:6; Zechariah 3:8–10; Zechariah 6:12–15;
Psalm 102:16–22; Matthew 18:19



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Overview

Our union with Christ drives us toward an extraordinary prayer life that looks forward to what will be while we pray towards that end—the explosion of the kingdom. Prayer unites us with Christ, unites us with one another, is a vehicle for kingdom building, and protects us from the enemy.

Discussion Questions

1. What obstacles and distractions does a persons prayer life face? Discuss the ones that seem to affect you the most.
2. What causes distraction from prayer? [Reverting to our fallen condition: unbelief] What can we do to overcome those obstacles? [Look to our union with Christ]
3. What does it mean to be united with Christ? How does our union with Christ motivate our prayer life?
4. Israel's return to the land did not quite line up how they wanted it to be. What did Zechariah do to encourage them? [Showed them what would be one day] What will life look like one day? Use other verses of Scripture to validate this picture.
5. What do we normally pray about? Look at Psalm 102:16–22. What is God's chief motivation for us in prayer? What should we primarily be praying about in light of our union with Christ and Zechariah's picture of the future? [Building the Kingdom]
6. What did we say extraordinary prayer is? [People gathered in prayer together for building the Kingdom.] Where did the concept come from? [Jonathan Edwards] Where can we practice extraordinary prayer at Redeemer? [Corporate worship, community groups, discipleship groups, quarterly prayer meetings] How can we foster a culture that keeps kingdom prayer in a primary position?
7. Why should we pray extraordinarily? [It gives us a visible picture of our union with Christ, unites us with one another, builds the kingdom, protects us from the enemy.]
8. How does extraordinary prayer show a picture of our union with Christ? [It shows our helplessness and our affection for Christ.]
9. How does extraordinary prayer unite us with one another? [It helps to prevent conflict, helps us take responsibility, helps us express love for one another.]