

## **Romans 1:9a - The Christian's Life of Requesting Prayer.**

Introduction. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

### **I. The Christian's Life of Requesting Prayer is not Inconsistent with Service for the Lord.**

- A. Circle of Responsibility: my Scriptural job description in my present situations and relationships.
- B. Circle of Concern: important things that are beyond my ability to bring about, so I entrust God with them through prayer.
- C. Romans 12:14-21.

### **II. The Christian's Life of Requesting Prayer Directs Service for the Lord.**

- A. Christian Service is Religious Service in Character: "serve."
- B. Christian Service is Sincere Service in Manner: "in my spirit."
  - 1. Philippians 1:15; Romans 12:8; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Corinthians 13:4, 5.
  - 2. It is not service while cold toward God.
  - 3. It is not service based on my personality / temperament.
  - 4. It is not fleshly (self-focused).
  - 5. It is not merely external.
  - 6. It is not lazy.
- C. Christian Service is Gospel - Centered in Content: "in the Gospel."
  - 1 Corinthians 2:2; Isaiah 52:7; Acts 20:27; Colossians 1:28.

Conclusion.

- Thank God for our church ministry. Pray that our church ministers to those inside and accepts the ministry of those from the inside, and that our church has a ministry in the community and beyond. Pray for our members serving and for our missionaries.
- Pray for your service for the Lord that it would follow the pattern modeled for us in this passage.

## **Questions for Thought and Discussion.**

1. From this message, what was the truth that stuck out the most to you?
2. Robert Haldane said, "Prayer and labor ought to go together. To pray without laboring is to mock God; to labor without prayer is to rob God of His glory. Until these are conjoined, the gospel will not be extensively successful." Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
3. In a perfect environment (the Garden of Eden), God gave man responsibilities. According to Genesis 1:28, 29 and 2:15, God gave man what three main responsibilities? In what sense was God ultimately empowering and enabling man to accomplish these responsibilities? In what sense would God not do these responsibilities for man?
4. What are some of the problems that take place when people confuse the Circle of Responsibility with the Circle of Concern?
5. How does Romans 12:14-21 demonstrate a clear description of both?
6. Christian service should have the sense of adoration & worship within it with no distinction between the spiritual and the physical. Describe how this is to take place.
7. Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said: "I warn you that you will sometimes find good Christian people who are like saints in one aspect of church meetings, yet they will suddenly begin to speak and act as if they were devils in another aspect of church life." Do you think this is correct? Why or why not? Based on the lesson, what is one of the main causes of this?
8. How do we ensure not to leave our First Love in our Christian service?
9. What will keep us from serving merely because of our temperament, or merely externally, or with a self-focus or serving in a lazy manner? What kept Paul from serving in these ways?
10. Are you serving God in your spirit?

## **Thoughts for Prayer.**

1. Thank God for our church ministry. Pray that our church ministers to those inside and accepts the ministry of those from the inside, and that our church has a ministry in the community and beyond. Pray for our members serving and for our missionaries.
2. Pray for your service for the Lord and the service of others within our church that we would all 1) know and practice our responsibilities, 2) entrust to God what is beyond our ability, 3) that our service would have an internal character of worshipping and adoring God, and 4) that our service would be sincere & wholehearted.