

PERSEVERING PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

Persevering in prayer is just one of several _____ of effective prayer; we must not mistake it for the whole

I. WE MUST BE CONSISTENT AND _____ IN PRAYER AND NOT GIVE UP

A. In this story, Jesus introduces us to 2 memorable characters:

- 1) The unrighteous judge “did not fear God nor regard man”—he could not be made to feel _____
- 2) The widow woman brought her case to the judge again and again and again, demanding _____

B. Even more memorable is the climax of the plot in this story:

- 1) Despite his attitude toward God and man, there came a point where the judge _____ his mind
- 2) Her continual coming “wearied” him, a word used of _____ somebody up or giving them a black eye; in this case the word is used metaphorically: she wore the judge out mentally and _____

C. The point is a lesser-to-greater argument: if the judge did this then how much _____ will God do that?

- 1) If this judge, who didn’t care about justice or compassion, responded to the repeated pleas of this widow, then *how much more* will our just and compassionate _____ respond to our repeated pleas
- 2) If this unrighteous judge gave justice to someone who he had no relationship with, who had no hold over him, *how much more* will God give justice to His own children who cry “ _____ Father”
- 3) If this judge responded to this widow when she had no advocate to plead her cause, *how much more* will God respond to our prayers when we come in Jesus’ name, depending on our _____

II. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY FOR GOD TO DO _____ FOR HIS PEOPLE

A. The Context for This Encouragement

- 1) The chapter and verse divisions in the Bible are not _____ ; they were added in the 1200s/1500s
- 2) The first 8 verses of Luke 18 belong with the last section of Luke 17: both are about the 2nd _____
- 3) So Jesus told this story in a context of tribulation in which God’s people are under _____

B. 2 Applications of This Encouragement

- 1) We take encouragement from this parable when we pray for our _____ to do justice for us
- 2) We take encouragement from this parable when we pray continually for _____ believers

C. A Caveat to This Encouragement: Jesus states a paradox in vv.7-8 that reminds us that when we pray our timetable is not God’s timetable, we must be discouraged when we don’t see immediate _____

III. WE MUST PERSEVERE IN PRAYER AS A _____ OF OUR FAITH

A. There Is a Direct Connection between Persevering Prayer and _____

- 1) When we persevere in prayer when there is no evidence that God _____ , it demonstrates our faith
- 2) Prayer is 1 of the best thermometers of our spiritual _____ : if we are prayerless we are faithless

B. So Jesus Expects Us to Persevere in Prayer for His _____ : “Thy kingdom come”

- 1) In line with the context (Luke 17:20-37) when Jesus returns He will do justice—_____ the elect
- 2) As Christ’s return draws closer, it will become _____ and _____ to persevere in this request
- 3) Ultimately v. 8 points to the end of the Tribulation Period when the _____ will decimate the elect