

Prayer Is Not a Substitute

James 5:16

Introduction:

- A. Prayer is a wonderful privilege of Christians.
 - 1. Pray often (1 Thess. 5:17; cf. Matt. 6:11; Acts 2:42)
 - 2. Pray publicly and privately. (Matt. 6:5-6; 1 Cor. 14:15,16)
- B. Prayer avails *much* (Jas. 5:16)
 - 1. To some it avails *nothing*.
 - 2. To others it avails *everything*.
- C. Prayer is not a substitute for other commands of God.

Discussion:

I. Prayer Is No Substitute for Bible Study.

- A. Scriptures make us wise unto salvation. (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
 - 1. Some pray instead.
 - 2. Want to do all the talking.
- B. Prayer cannot take place of study. (Hos. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15).
- C. Faith come by word of God, not prayer (Rom. 10:17).

II. Prayer Is No Substitute for the Gospel Plan of Salvation.

- A. Cannot take the place of *faith*.
 - 1. Faith essential to coming to God. (Heb. 11:6)
 - 2. Faith essential to acceptable prayer. (Jas. 1:5-7; Matt. 21:23)
- B. Cannot take the place of repentance
 - 1. Repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38)
 - 2. Repent or perish. (Luke 13:3)
 - 3. Repent or God will not hear. (Psa. 66:18)
 - 4. Repent and pray for child of God (Acts 8:22)
- C. Cannot take the place of *Baptism*.
 - 1. Not for Saul. (Acts 9:9,11; 22:16)
 - 2. Baptism, not prayer puts on into Christ. (Gal. 3:26ff)

III. Prayer Is No Substitute for Church Attendance. (Heb. 10:25)

IV. Prayer Is No Substitute for General Obedience. (Lk. 6:46; Mt. 7:21)

Conclusion: There is no substitute for prayer. (Jas. 5:16-18)