

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 23-24, 2000

"Let's Pray"

Dale Whitehead

James 5:13-18

Christ practiced an unending communion between Himself and the Father.

He urged His disciples to do the same.

The early church appears to have learned that lesson and carried on Christ's commitment to continual unceasing prayer.

Throughout his life, the Apostle Paul exemplified this commitment to prayer (Romans 1:9-10; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 1:4; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 11; Philemon 4).

Prayer and comfort

The word for suffering (KAKOPATHEI) primarily means to endure hardship, to experience misfortune or calamity.

Prayer is essential to enduring affliction. Enduring affliction is all about comfort and God is the ultimate source of comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 1 Peter 5:7).

We suffer temptation (Romans 7:15-24)

We suffer people (1 Corinthians 13:4)

We suffer circumstances (1 Corinthians 4:9-14)

The word "cheerful" (EUTHUMEO) is a good translation of the word. It is found only one other time in the New Testament and that is in Acts 27:22,25 when Paul is encouraging the sailors in the midst of the storm to take courage or in other words to be cheerful.

Praise is simply another form of prayer (Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2)

"Sing praise" does not mean that we have to join the worship team at church but it does mean that when we are cheerful because of the Lord's goodness it should produce such an expression of gratitude toward Him in our hearts that in essence it becomes music to his ears.