

The First Thing--Prayer

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 2:1-7.

B. The first step in Christian vitality is to do what one says.

II. What public worship ought to gather around.

A. Prayer. Public prayer was to take priority for fellow Christians and those around.

1. It focuses a person on God immediately, which brings reality and vitality to a service.

2. It puts one's own humanity into perspective.

3. We are not to forsake meeting together--often the problems of our lives are solved by coming to church. (Psalm 73)

4. Forms of prayer.

a. Supplications.

b. Prayers, which God alone can meet.

c. Intercessions.

5. Paul includes thanksgivings as important parts of the service.

6. The objects of prayer.

a. All people.

b. Public officials.

c. All in high positions.

7. Results.

a. The peace of our community is related to our prayers.

b. The godliness and respectfulness of the believer, which means to live realistically and courteously.

c. Prayer fulfills the will of God. Prayer is God's way of opening up men for salvation. There is only one provision for salvation--Jesus Christ.

d. There is only one gospel and it brings a person in touch with reality.

B. The church holds the key to life, which is why God has called together this remarkable body.

Application questions:

1. How is the church to pray?

2. How would you respond to a Christian who says that we are not to pray for public officials if they are not doing God's will?

3. Which result of prayer stands out to you the most? What strikes you about it?
