I. Introduction. (Ephesians 4:6)

A. Supplication, thanksgiving, and making requests known are all a form of prayer.

B. We are not enjoying all that God has because we are not practicing everything “by prayer.”

C. The phrase “everything by prayer” ought to be posted everywhere for the church to see.

II. Why everything ought to be done by prayer.

A. There coexists two kingdoms-the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man.

1. We are born into the kingdom of man-fallen man. The human race believes in its own self-sufficiency, in the soundness of moral judgments, that man is right and good, and that there is a basic badness to the human race, however.

2. There is another kingdom-the kingdom of God. The members are born anew by Jesus Christ. They trust in God alone and know that they have no strength in the flesh. It is a different kingdom altogether than the kingdom of man.

B. There is probably no church anywhere that is totally committed to the kingdom of God, but there are churches that have totally given themselves to the kingdom of man.

1. A real effort needs to be made by the church to be in the business of God.

2. The church needs to attempt to keep the kingdom of man out of itself.

C. There is nothing in human nature nor any thought in man that can do the work of God.

1. We are not to hide away from the kingdom of man.

2. On the contrary, we are to do everything by power-by the power of God.

3. While the world says everything by money, the church says everything by prayer.

   a. In the kingdom of God, God uses money.

   b. But God only uses money by prayer.

   c. Money without prayer is a curse.

4. The world says everything by prestige-public relations.

   a. The church does not need a bureau of public relations.

   b. The church needs the power of God-let the world think what it will.
5. The world says everything by committee.
   a. A committee is a company of the “incompetent.”
   b. The Holy Spirit upon one man can accomplish far more than any committee.
   c. Committees may be a necessity, but the point is that a committee’s time can be cut down by more prayer.

6. The world says everything by business technique.

7. The world says everything by education.

8. The world says everything by compromise.
   a. It is a good thing to make compromises where you can.
   b. But compromising is a deadly business in the kingdom of God.
   c. The church is not to be used, it is to serve.

D. It is a deadly snare to have others doing the praying for you.

   1. Prayer gives power to all other things.
   2. No one ought to serve in the church at all unless that person is a praying person.
   3. Service is stubble without prayer.

Application questions.

1. What is the distinction between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man? What means do each employ? What means do each exclude?

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2. Are money, public relations, business techniques, education, and compromise bad things? What is it about prayer that makes or breaks these things? What does a lack of prayer reveal about a church?

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3. What place does prayer take in your life? What will you do to make your life a life empowered by God?

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