

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1-2-11 PM NOTES
"THE MORNING HOUR"
PSALMS 5:3
(Non-Series Message)

Psalms 88:13 (NKJV) "But to You I have cried out, O Lord, and in the morning my prayer comes before You."

Psalms 119:147 (NKJV) "I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your word."

Psalms 143:8 (NKJV) "Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust; cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You."

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV) "pray without ceasing."

- Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), the pioneer missionary to interior China even when he travelled long distances and slept in inns where a large number of people slept in the same room, it was said that sometime before 4:00 a.m., he would find a corner and light his candle and read the Word of God and pray.
- Charles Simeon (1759-1836), the English pastor, who was greatly used by God, devoted the hours of 4-8 a.m. to God.
- Martin Luther (1483-1546), the reformer said, "If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day."
- Bishop Asbury (1745-1816), the first Methodist bishop ordained in America, said "I propose to rise at four o'clock as often as I can and spend 2 hours in prayer and meditation."
- Adoniram Judson (1788-1850), the first American foreign missionary said, "Arrange thy affairs, if possible, so that thou canst leisurely devote two or three hours every day not merely to devotional exercises but to the very act of secret prayer and communion with God."

I. The Challenge

A. The Need for the Morning Hour

"It is quite natural and inevitable that if we spend sixteen hours daily of our waking life in thinking about the affairs of the world, and five minutes in thinking about God...this world will seem 200 times more real to us than God."

—Dean Inge

Mark 1:35 (NKJV) "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."

B. The Elements for the Morning Hour

1. The Word of God

James 1:2 (NKJV) "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials."

Colossians 1:9b-10 (NKJV) ⁹ "...to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

2. Prayer

"Prayerlessness is a spirit of independence from God."

—Adrian Rogers

"God is so gracious that He condescends to converse with poor, sinful, dust and ashes. Prayer is one of the most pleasant ways he has appointed for children of men to walk with Him. His children whisper to Him in the ear, and open their minds and hearts as His intimate friends. Prayer is our chief duty and brings heaven down to man. There is no duty that has so many promises attached to it, gives more honor to God, or which receives more honor from God. It is a guard to secure the fort of the heart, a porter to keep the door of the lips, and a shield to protect the hands. It perfumes every relation and profits every condition. No one can deprive you of this privilege."

—George Swinnoek

C. The Fruit

“Consider the morning watch now as *the means* to this great end: I want to secure absolutely the presence of Christ for the entire day, to do nothing that can interfere with it. I feel that my success for the day will depend on the clearness and the strength of the faith that seeks and finds and holds *Him* in the inner chamber. The link for the day between Christ and me must be renewed and firmly fastened in the morning hour.”

—Andrew Murray

“Oh! One hour with God infinitely exceeds all the pleasures and delights of this lower world.”

—David Brainerd

*Oh, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend;
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee my God,
I commune as friend with friend!*

—Fanny Crosby (1875)

II. The Implementation of the Challenge

- Go to bed earlier
- Get an obnoxious, LOUD alarm clock
- Set aside a special place for your morning hour
- When you wake up, get up
- Go directly to your meeting place and don't get distracted

A. The Word

1. A Plan

John, 1 John, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Genesis, Romans, Matthew, Psalms, Proverbs, Matthew, and Isaiah

2. A Procedure

Is there a sin to confess?
Is there a promise to claim?
Is there a command to obey?
Is there an attribute of God to praise Him for?
Is there an example to learn from?
Is there a truth to reckon on?
Is there a sin to avoid?

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Psalms 1:1-3 (NKJV) “¹Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²but his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, and in His law he **meditates** day and night. ³He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.”

B. Prayer

1. Pray the Word
2. Confess the Truth
3. Organize the Requests

III. The Caution with the Challenge

“Prayer has obtained things that seemed impossible and out of reach. It has won victories over fire, air, earth, and water. Prayer opened the Red Sea. Prayer brought water from the rock and bread from heaven. Prayer made the sun stand still. Prayer brought fire from the sky on Elijah's sacrifice. Prayer overthrew the army of Sennacherib. Prayer has healed the sick. Prayer has raised the dead. Prayer has procured the conversion of countless souls.”

—J. C. Ryle

Matthew 26:40b (NKJV) “What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?”