

Lecture Outline 3: *Prayer*

Introduction

The Basics About Prayer

The Practice of Prayer

Conclusions

Discussion 3: *Prayer*

Questions from the Lecture

1. In *Westminster Shorter Catechism* #98 prayer is defined as “an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.” Look at the following passages and describe which part of the definition it deals with:

1 John 1:9 -

Psalm 62:8 -

1 John 5:14 -

Phil. 4:6 -

John 16:23-24 -

2. Write out the six petitions of the Lord’s Prayer and a (very) brief description of the nature of each and how it can be used in prayer.

3. What does the acronym ACTS stand for in relation to prayer?

4. On another sheet of paper, write out a prayer that you might pray based on either Psalm 18, 51 or 74.

Questions from the Reading

1. Dr. Sproul gives three reasons why the Christian should pray: it is a duty, privilege, and means of grace. Find a Scripture passage that addresses each. Does Dr. Sproul convince you of the reasons for prayer?
2. Dr. Sproul uses the image of the husband and wife from Ephesians 5:25-33 to draw out 4 principles relating to the privilege of prayer. What are the principles? How do they relate to prayer?
3. On page 48, Dr. Sproul gives a definition of a “means of grace.” Restate this definition using your own words.
4. List one of the practical suggestions on how to pray Dr. Sproul lists from Martin Luther’s book *A Simple Way to Pray*. How it has impacted your own prayer life in your use of it?