

Ps 5

The spirit of prayer

A cluster of Psalms

1. Looking at a cluster of David's Psalms...Psalm 4-7
2. It is vital that we study them together in order to have a correct understanding of these Psalms
3. There is a flow of thought through these Psalms

Review of Ps 4

1. David had to go through distressing times as his life was threatened by enemies
2. He began his prayer focusing on "God of my righteousness"
3. He knew that the Lord would set aside him who is godly
4. The Lord would answer his prayers in view of his righteousness

Ps 5

Context of the Psalm

1. There are imprecatory elements in this Psalm
2. How should we understand this imprecatory element?
 - a) It reflects self-righteousness
 - b) David decided to ask God to pass judgment on his enemies
3. David looked to God to destroy his enemies Ps 5:4-6
 - a) David understood how God would see these enemies
 - b) All good and true
 - c) But David also spoke about how God would destroy these enemies
4. He sought God to pronounce them guilty Ps 5:9-10
 - a) Another description of the enemies
 - b) More imprecatory elements

5. This reflects David's self-righteousness
6. The problem of anger in self-righteousness

A formulaic way of praying

1. In Psalm 5, we see David praying in a formulaic way

2. Praying in the morning Ps 5:1-3
3. Offering worship to the Lord Ps 5:7-8
4. Concluding prayer with joy Ps 5:11-12

5. When the spirit of prayer is wrong

a) The form of prayer may be right

b) But when the spirit of prayer is wrong, we have the form of prayer only

Lessons learned

1. To check our form and spirit of prayer
2. To guard against having the wrong spirit
3. Our righteousness to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees
Matt 5:20

4. Do not be judgmental of others
"Judge not, that you be not judged." Matt 7:1

5. Spirit of humility in prayer

a) Not to be self-righteous as the Pharisees

"Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:" Luke 18:9

b) But to have humility as the tax collector

"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:14