

Praying to the Sovereign God for Power

A Call to Spiritual Reformation, Week 9 – Outline

Chapter 10 Overview

- I. Introduction (167-70)
 1. There is a connection between Paul's praise (Eph 1:3-14) and the content of his prayer (1:15-23)
 2. Paul's prayer here is a model of how to pray under the sovereignty of God
- II. Because God is sovereign, Paul offers thanksgiving for God's intervening, sovereign grace in the lives of his readers [1:15-16] (170-72)
 1. "Because it is God who has worked in them, Paul has not stopped thanking God; because it is God alone who sovereignly and graciously continues to effect such transformation, he is the one who must be petitioned to continue his good work" (170)
- III. Because God is sovereign, Paul offers intercession that God's sovereign, holy purposes in the salvation of his people may be accomplished [1:17-19a] (172-77)
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 - a) "When [Paul] asks God for something, very frequently Paul addresses God or describes God in terms that are related to the request" (173)
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 - (2) "The Father of glory"/"the glorious Father"
 - (a) Expresses awareness of God's proper domain
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 - (c) Hold's up the Fathers domain as the Christian's ultimate hope
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 - a) The Spirit reveals (see above); we must have our spiritual faculties attuned to receive what God reveals by his Spirit.
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- (1) To understand the hope of their calling, the goal of their salvation
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- (3) To know God’s incomparably great power for us who believe – “Paul cannot be satisfied with a brand of Christianity that is orthodox by dead, rich in the theory of justification but powerless when it comes to transforming people’s lives” (177)

IV. Because God is sovereign, Paul offers a review of God’s most dramatic displays of power [1:19b-23] (177-180)

1. “For an omnipotent God there cannot be degrees of difficulty. There is no one act that is ‘most powerful.’ Paul does not hunt for the most powerful of the most difficult displays of God’s power, since such categories are essentially meaningless.” (178)
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 1. “Inner being” – what is left when the outer man is gone

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1. Paul’s petitions are in line with God’s purposes
 1. “For this reason” (3:14) ultimately points back to Chapters 1 and 2 and the purposes of God stated therein
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