

CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating and training ministerial leadership



THE322 Biblical Theology of Prayer

Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

Professor

Course Description

Biblical Theology of Prayer is both an intellectual and spiritual study of prayer through the Scriptures. It traces the theme of prayer through the Old and New Testaments and makes practical application to the contemporary Christian. Coupled with a prayer project and three book reports on prayer, the students will gain a broad understanding of prayer and practical application for both themselves and the church.

Resources

In addition to Biblical Theology of Prayer, a Study Guide by Paul W. Smith, and Holy Bible and the textbooks it was written to accompany are required: *The Spirit Helps Us Pray: A Biblical Theology of Prayer* by Robert L. Brandt and Zenas J. Bicket and *With Christ in the School of Prayer* by Andrew Murray. Bible quotations in the Study Guide are from the New International Version (NIV 1978 edition) unless otherwise noted. Some assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site. Instructions for accessing the Internet are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet.

Objectives

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

Course Procedures

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Course Introduction | 7 |
| UNIT ONE: Prayer in the Old Testament, Part 1 | |
| 1 Defining the Terms | 16 |
| 2 Prayers of the Patriarchs and Their Contemporaries | 28 |
| 3 The Prayers of Moses | 42 |
| 4 The Period from Joshua to King Saul | 56 |
| UNIT TWO: Prayer in the Old Testament, Part 2 | |
| 5 The Prayers of David and Other Psalmists | 70 |
| 6 The Prayers of Solomon and Later Leaders of Israel | 84 |
| 7 Prayer in the Prophetic Books | 100 |
| UNIT THREE: Prayer in the New Testament: The Gospels and the Book of Acts | |
| 8 Prayer in the Life and Ministry of Christ | 112 |
| 9 Christ's Teaching on Prayer | 126 |
| 10 Prayer in the Jerusalem Church | 140 |
| 11 Prayer in the Expanding Church | 148 |
| UNIT FOUR: Prayer in the New Testament: The Epistles | |
| 12 Paul on Prayer, Part 1..... | 166 |
| 13 Paul on Prayer, Part 2..... | 182 |
| 14 Prayer in Hebrews and the General Epistles | 196 |
| UNIT FIVE: Prayer in Contemporary Practice | |
| 15 Angelic Intervention | 210 |
| 16 Prayer and Revival | 218 |
| 17 The Disciplines of Prayer: A Practicum | 228 |
| 18 Problems Considered | 238 |

Course Introduction

Pick up any book on discipleship and there will undoubtedly be some reference to prayer. Most of the authors of these books will define prayer as “conversing with God.” Although this is the simplest definition, it says nothing about how to pray or the different parts of prayer or even the different kinds of prayer.

The subtitle of the textbook, *The Spirit Helps Us Pray is A Biblical Theology of Prayer*. Biblical theology doesn’t try to find the answers to questions by looking up certain verses in the Bible. Rather, biblical theology takes a particular theme and traces it through the Scriptures to find out what the Scriptures have to say about the theme. It then formulates a theology of that subject from the information gathered in the biblical contexts in which the theme occurs. The textbook does this.

During the first two units of this course, you will take the theme of prayer and, beginning with the patriarchs in the book of Genesis, trace the theme of prayer through the Old Testament. Units 3 and 4 will take you through the New Testament beginning in Matthew and ending in the book of Revelation. You will follow along finding out who prayed and why, what their prayers consisted of, and the answers they received. You will draw conclusions and applications about prayer based on the solid foundation of what the Bible reveals about prayer.

In the last unit, “Prayer in Contemporary Practice,” you will study how prayer must be a part of every believer’s life and the necessity of prayer to a growing, healthy church community. Coupled with the course project of keeping a prayer journal, you will discover the practical and deeply spiritual aspects of prayer. Although you will only get out of this course what you put into it, any sincere effort on your part toward learning about and experiencing prayer through the Scriptures and contemporary application will reap tremendous benefits.