

Prayer Meeting Address given by Mr Jabez Rutt at Lamberhurst on 24th June 2025

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5 vs. 17

The verse that particularly rested on my spirit was verse 17, "Pray without ceasing." The Lord Jesus in his teachings, I believe it is in Luke 18 verse 1, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." "Pray without ceasing." But I felt in meditating here this morning there is a connection here in the context and it says in verse 4, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day" that is the great day of the Lord when Christ comes again, "that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep," you know, friends, I looked at it in this way, when we get sleepy, I mean spiritually sleepy, like the Lord speaks to the Laodicean church in the book of the Revelation, "Thou art neither hot nor cold," in other words lukewarm. One of the first things that fails when we get in that condition is prayer, we get sleepy. With that sleepiness comes spiritual darkness. This is all connected here together. "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." How do we watch? We watch unto prayer. "For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." Then this wonderful word, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore comfort yourselves... Pray without ceasing."

O that the Lord would give us this grace and enable us. When the Lord Jesus Christ was in the Garden of Gethsemane we read in Luke 22 how that the Lord Jesus Christ prayed unto his heavenly Father. What an example, my beloved friends, for us to pray. We read there in verse 39, "And he came out," that is Jesus, "and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him. And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Saying, Father, if thou be willing remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. Then, "being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, And he said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." The great antidote, my

beloved friends, when we are in temptation is to pray, is to look unto Jesus, that is to whom we should pray. "Men ought always to pray."

I do not know where you have been today spiritually or literally but this exhortation is a worthy one, "Pray without ceasing." You may have some great problem, some great trouble, some great perplexity, something that casts you down much. "Pray without ceasing." What a word it is, how often do we take heed to it. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus." The other thing that happens when we get into a dark or sleepy state and condition not only does prayer fall away but our love. It says in verse 19, "Quench not the Spirit." If we become worldly and carnal and fall into temptation and begin having so many friends in the world then we become cold spiritually. We do those things that are not pleasing to the Lord and in doing that we quench the Spirit. We read in Ephesians 4, "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." We know that we grieve because we become dark, we come into spiritual bondage and darkness, carelessness and it is that which quenches the Spirit.

The apostle says in verse 25 "Brethren, pray for us." Friends, the Lord's servants need your prayers, they do. The Lord's servants have many peculiar temptations, trials that are particular to the Lord's servants and they need your prayers hence the apostle says, "Pray for us." O that we may be enabled by the Spirit of God to pray to our Lord Jesus Christ. In the epistle to the Hebrews 4 the apostle says, "Seeing then we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God...who's 'Touched with a sympathy within, He knows our feeble frame;' "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." O that these words may be living words in our hearts.

This morning when I was meditating my mind was much drawn to Luke 21 verse 34, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." "Watch ye therefore, and pray." We're not just to pray, we are to watch. Sometimes perhaps at a prayer meeting we pray for this or for that and we go home and we forget everything that we have prayed for. It should be the opposite,

we should watch, and what should we watch for? Answers to prayer. How we need that watchfulness. May the Lord grant it to us that we may "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." We are praying unto a great high priest and all power is given unto him in heaven and in earth and he is able to do abundantly more than we can even ask or think. When we pray we need to think who we are praying to, "For *there is* one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus: Who gave his life a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." O that the Lord would enable us that we may have the eye of faith fixed on Jesus. "Tis he, instead of me, is seen, When I approach to God." "Pray without ceasing."