

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER.

10/15/2023 PM

INTRO.:

A. Read the text: Acts 4:23-25.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Note the song "Sweet Hour of Prayer" (#618).
2. Pray (306 verses); Prayed (65 verses); Praying (20 verses) Prayer (107 verses).
3. The brethren prayed for Peter (**Acts 12:5** "... but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."
4. Christ prayed often (**Luke 6:12** – Jesus continued all night in prayer.)

C. This is an old song dating to around 1842. From a poem by William W. Walford. It was put to music by William Bradbury 1859.

I. VS. 1, TAKE TIME TO PRAY.

A. "That calls me from a world of care."

1. We live in a busy world. We must find time to pray.
2. Examples of prayer: Daniel prayed (**Daniel 6:10**), Jesus prayed (**Luke 6:12**).
 - 1) WERE THEY BUSY?
 - 2) We know they were! But they MADE TIME to pray!
3. Taking time to pray is NOT something we can afford to give up.

B. "And bids me at my Father's throne. Make all my wants and wishes known."

1. Our prayers are directed to God, our heavenly Father (**Matt. 6:9**).
2. We MUST pray according to His will (**1 John 5:14-15**).

C. "In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief." James 5:13.

D. "And oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer." (Luke 22:46**).**

II. VS. 2 PROPERLY WAITING FOR HIS RETURN.

A. "The joy I feel, the bliss I share, Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return."

1. With joy we look forward to the Lord's return (**Phil. 3:20; 2 Timothy 4:8**).
2. Strong desire --- Prepared!

B. "With such I hasten to the place where God, my Savior shows His face."

1. Prayer is a personal time with God.

C. "And gladly take my station there, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer."

1. This will be our place in life (**1 Corinthians 15:58**).

III. VS. 3: PRAYERS ASCEND TO HEAVEN.

A. "Thy wings shall my petition bear. To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless."

1. Our prayers are offered to God through Jesus (**John 16:23; Eph. 2:18**).
2. The prayers of the faithful are heard (**Isaiah 59:1-2; John 9:31**).

B. "And since He bids me seek His face, believe His word and trust His grace." (Matthew 21:22; 1 Timothy 2:8**).**

C. "I'll cast on Him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer."

1. **1 Peter 5:7; Phil. 4:6**. "Casting
2. **Philippians 4:6**.
3. God doesn't work on my time schedule.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Prayer is a wonderful blessing. Use it all the time!

B. Prayer can keep us on the right road.