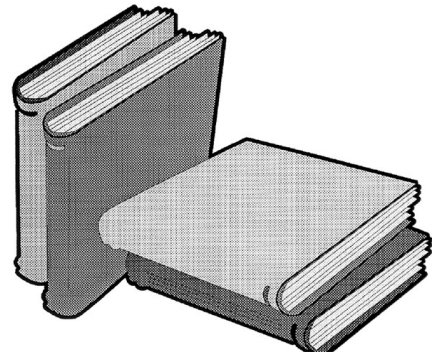


The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,
collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1036

External Worship. On Public Prayer.

Prayer is one part of the saints' spiritual armor, and a principal one. **Prayer is the breath of the regenerate soul**; as soon as a child is born into the world it cries, as soon as a soul is born again it prays.

Prayer is the speech of the soul to God, a talking to him, a converse with him, in which much of its communion with God lies. **Prayer is an address to God in the name of Christ**, and through him as the Mediator, under the influence and by the assistance of the Spirit of God in faith, and in the sincerity of our souls, for such things we stand in need of, and which are consistent with the will of God and for his glory to bestow, and therefore ought to be asked with submission.

In prayer **there should be a celebration of the divine perfections**; and it is proper to begin with this. We should come before a pure and holy God under a sense of the depravity and pollution of our nature, and of our unworthiness to be admitted into his presence. There should be a confession of sin, of the sin of our nature—original sin, of indwelling sin, and of our daily transgressions.

We should pray that God will deliver the saints out of present darkness, of whatever kind whatsoever, that he would remove his afflicting hand which lies heavy upon them, and avert those evils which seem to threaten them.

Another branch of prayer is **a petition for good things which are needed**, for temporal mercies such as regard the sustenance of our bodies, the comfort, support and preservation of life, our daily bread, which includes all the necessities of life. Prayer should always be accompanied with thanksgiving.

We should pray for those who are dead in sins, unconverted sinners.

We are to pray for the peace and welfare of the inhabitants of any city or country in which we dwell, since in the peace thereof we have peace.

John Gill, *A Complete Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity*, 1770,
from the 1819 edition, p. 939-944,
with slight changes in wording for the modern reader.
Gill was a Reformed Baptist Minister pastoring the congregation that
in 1854 called the 19 year old Charles Spurgeon to its pulpit.