**God-Pleasing Prayer (1 Kings 3:5-14)**

 God-pleasing prayer is done with a humble and honest heart.

 Greetings to you dear brothers and sisters, as we talk about prayer and how it is done today. The life of a Christ-follower, if it is a prayerful one, makes their mission and life have the right influence on the surrounding people. In other words, without prayer, our Christianity remains either a purely academic exercise or a performance. Knowing this, however, means that prayer is to be God-pleasing in so that it reaches its intended goal and the person’s spiritual life grows. Therefore, we are going to speak about how it is possible to send up God-pleasing prayers to Him. God-pleasing prayer is done with a humble and honest heart. (Let’s talk, then, about the right contents of prayer…)

 The prayer that pleases God is always focused on the Lord’s will – not man’s. Solomon’s prayer is a clear lesson for us as to what the contents of prayer should be. First, Solomon remembers God’s works, which means that He is showing God respect. He remembers the good things that were given to his family, especially the Lord’s blessings in his father David’s life. Beyond that, he declares that he knows David’s God as his God as well, calling Him, “Lord, my God”. After glorifying the Lord and recognizing Him as such, Solomon’s prayer was focused on caring for God’s people. Solomon did not ask for material wealth, but he approached with a humble heart and saw the needs of the people entrusted to him by God. In other words, Solomon took up God’s heart as his own, one full of compassion for his people. Thus, when God saw that Solomon requested that which was going to advance His own plan, He granted the young king more than he had asked for. Nevertheless, Solomon’s many material blessings were contingent on his faithfulness to the Lord. In other words, Solomon’s prayer was right because his focus was on doing God’s will and not his.

A great missionary leader once said, when someone asked him how he was chosen for the work in China, that God chose a little man so that people might see what a great God we have.

It’s all about humility. If we desire that our prayers be pleasing to God, we are to approach our Savior with humble hearts. Yes, we can be thankful for our many “things.” We can be thankful for our families, our comfort, our wealth. But it is all the more indispensable that we glorify the Lord first by remembering Him and His deeds and then to present our requests with His plans in mind. If we pray and give the Lord all the glory, He will add to us that which we need, and even more than we can think.

Therefore, come and let us always begin our prayers with glorification, with our words of thanks having in mind His plans for us and everybody else. Let us request from Him that which will advance His plans in our lives. Let us ask that which adds to His glory through our spiritual lives. In a word, let us ask for what is Godly, and meanwhile the Lord will take care of our bodily needs…

The prayer that pleases God is always focused on the Lord’s will – not man’s. God-pleasing prayer is done with a humble and honest heart.

The Lord bless you all. Amen.