

CALL to PRAYER -

Intro - The Book of Ephesians ends on a personal note. This book has been full of rich doctrine about our salvation as well as practical application on how to live out our salvation. It is very theological and very practical. But it is also very personal. Ephesians is like our faith...It has a theological foundation upon which we build a very practical framework. But that framework is not meant to be empty it is meant to house a family. Our faith is not just an empty structure; it is the place where lives are to be lived out together. You see, the Christian church is not just to be a *church school* where we learn something foundational. Nor is it just a place of *church work* where we are engaged in building something. Church is to be a *church home / family /community*. It is a place where we share our lives with other saints...it is personal. The apostle Paul ends the letter to the Ephesian church by sharing a personal prayer request with them. Then he dispatches a friend to further inform them of his personal situation. Since he shared his life with the church, today I want to encourage us to share our lives with each other.

S.H.A.R.E.

Eph. 6:18-22 – S.H.A.R.E a Prayer & Something Personal

- Context - putting on the armor of God - the last item mentioned is “all prayer”
 - 6:18 pray in the Spirit...at all times...for all the saints
 - Then he gives them something specific so they can practice what he is preaching
 - Paul gives them a personal prayer request
 - 6:19a “and pray on my behalf...”
 - Paul shares a prayer request so his church family will know how to pray
 - It is hard to pray for someone if you don’t know their situation
 - Then he sends Tychicus to deliver the letter and more personal information
 - 6:21-22
 - Acrostic S.H.A.R.E. as an example of things to share with each other for prayer
- S - SPIRITUAL NEEDS
 - 6:19-20 Paul wanted to speak clearly and boldly as he proclaimed the gospel
 - This is good thing to pray for a preacher
 - Paul mentions his physical situation but focuses on the spiritual dimension
 - He is in jail...in chains (3:1; 4:1; 6:20) *ambassador in chains* (not fun)
 - Escaping the physical situation/location is not the primary supplication
 - *Don’t pray I get out of jail...pray that I am a bold preacher while in jail*
 - Cal Zastrow - (11/28/24 - Daily Wire interview by Leif Le Mahieu)
 - 6 months in prison for praying/singing/sitting at abortion clinic in Tenn.
 - Missed holidays and birth of grandchild
 - He is doing “*absolutely fantastic*” on a “*DOJ sponsored mission trip*”
 - “*I’m pretty busy....2300 men and their need to hear about Jesus...is greater than my need for liberty...*” (praying, reading, teaching, distributing books on missionaries)
 - Share a spiritual need brought on by a physical situation
 - Patience & strength to endure...be a good witness...grow in faith....
 - Ephesians 1:18-19 Phil. 1:9-11 Col. 1:9-12

- H - HEALTH NEEDS
 - God made us body, soul and spirit - health is a proper prayer request
 - 3 John 2
 - Phil. 2:25-27 Epaphroditus sick
 - 2 Tim. 4:20 Trophims sick
 - 2 Tim. 4:12-13 (a coat because he was cold....books to read.....paper to write on)
 - We are to pray for "*daily bread*" daily physical needs
 - 2 Chron. 16:12
 - James 5:14
- A - AFFLICTION & ANGUISH
 - Phil. 4:14 (4:12-14)
 - We are to share in each other's afflictions
 - It has been so helpful that the church has shared in our anguish
 - "*We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.*"
 - Gal. 6:2
 - A burden shared is halved because you are yoked together
 - If you don't share it, then you will have to carry it all by yourself
 - If you keep everyone at arm's length, then you will never get hugged
 - Rom. 12:15
 - Heb. 10:32-34
- R - RELATIONSHIP NEEDS
 - Phil. 4:2-3
 - Church can be a messy place because people can be messy
 - It is uncomfortable to disclose the mess that exists within relationships
 - Wednesday night prayer meeting....I shared some stuff going on in my family
 - We all have some "stuff"
 - It was a tender & vulnerable time where we shared in prayer for each other and our messy relationships
 - God made us for relationships, and we should pray about our relationships
- E - ECONOMIC NEEDS
 - 3 John 2
 - There was a collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem
 - The other churches were made aware of an economic need
 - 1 Cor. 16:1-3 (2 Cor. 8 & 9)
 - The first deacon ministry was begun to address the needs of widows
 - Sharing economic need was part of church life
 - CBBC budget
 - The budget has gone out -
 - Pray for the finance committee
 - Pray that the financial needs of the church will be met
 - Pray that we would be good stewards of what God has given
- S.H.A.R.E. a prayer and something personal so people will know how to pray for you