

A HOUSE OF PRAYER: PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CONGREGATION
SYLVANIA CHURCH (1/12/14)

FIRST LOVE (REV. 2:1-7)

1) **They knew the Word of God. (v. 2)**

2) **They weren't ashamed of the Truth and were committed for the long term. (v.3)**

But, **you (pl.) have abandoned the love you had at the first.**

THESIS: EXPOSITIONAL (BIBLICAL) PREACHING FUELS A HEART ON FIRE. BIBLICAL PRAYER KEEPS THE FIRE STOKED.

THE COMMUNITY PRAYS BECAUSE GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Prayer has a function like that of preaching. Belief in Christ is a gift of God (John 6:65; II Timothy 2:25; Ephesians 2:8), but God has ordained that the means by which men believe on Jesus is through the preaching of men.

Prayer is like preaching in that it is a human act also. **It is a human act that God has ordained and which he delights in because it reflects the dependence of his creatures upon Him.**

PRAYER DISPLAYS A COMMUNITY DEPENDENT UPON HIM

(1 Peter 2:9)

BIBLICAL PRAYER IS THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE THE COMMUNITY HAS FOR HIM AND BECAUSE OF HIM

Love for God: **(Psalm 37:4; Philippians 4:4-7)**

Love for each other: **(John 17:3; 1 John 4:19)**

WHAT ARE GOD'S DESIRES? WHAT DO WE PRAY?

Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.

Notice that it is not a conversation with God. God does not pray to us.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Matthew 6:9-13:

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, **(Luke 11:13; Acts 12:5)**

hallowed be your name. **(Revelation 4:11)**

Your kingdom come, **(2 Thessalonians 3:1; Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 4:29)**

your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. **(Psalm 25:4-5; Psalm 119:26)**

Give us this day our daily bread, **(Proverbs 30:8-9; 1 Timothy 6:6-8)**

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **(Mark 11:25; Matthew 18:35)**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. **(Psalm 19:13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; John 17:15)**