



The Secret Key to Heaven

The vital importance of Private Prayer

Thomas Brooks

Part 4

OBJECTIONS STATED
AND ANSWERED

OBJECTION 1: TOO BUSY

"We are too busy to spare
time for private prayer"



Answer 1:

Saints of old had more and weightier business to tend to than we do

“These brave hearts made all their public employments stoop to private prayer; they would never suffer their public employments to tread private prayer under foot.”

-Thomas Brooks

Answer 2:

The outward affairs of those devoted to private prayer tend to prosper more

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- “No families have been so prospered, protected, and graced, as those who have maintained secret communion with God in a corner”
- “Private prayer best expedites our temporal affairs”
- “He that prays well in his closet, shall be sure to speed well in his shop, or at his plough, or whatever else he turns his hand to (1 Tim 4:8)”

Answer 3:

Most objectors who complain about lack of time tend to waste the time they have

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- To complain about a lack of time when you waste the time you have is disingenuous
- If we can find time in the day to be idle then we can find time to be in prayer
- We should redeem the times of “gazing about, dallying, toying”, etc. in private prayer

“It is a base, sordid spirit in any to spend any of their time in toying and trifling, and then to cry out that they have so much business to do in the world, that they have no time for closet prayer”

-Thomas Brooks

Answer 4:

You would not plead this in front of Jesus on the great day of account

“It is the greatest wisdom in the world, to plead nothing by way of excuse in this our day, that we dare not plead in the great day.”

-Thomas Brooks

Answer 5:

It is our duty to redeem
time from all our secular
businesses for private
prayer

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- Ephesians 5:16 — Redeem the time because the days are evil
- Pagans redeem the time — much more should Christians regarding prayer
- “We should redeem time for private prayer out of our eating time, our drinking time, our sleeping time, our buying time, our selling time, our sinning time, our sporting time, rather than neglect our closet communion with God.”

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving...Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.”

Colossians 4:2,5

Answer 6:

Closet prayer is
either a duty or it is
no duty

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duty or it is no duty

- If private prayer is a duty then we should commit to it no matter what
- If a person finds an excuse to neglect the smaller duty of private prayer then they will find an excuse for greater duties also
- Remember the Biblical examples of those who made excuses or “carnal apologies” (Luke 14:16-24)

Answer 7:

God never appoints/designs a particular calling to thwart private prayer

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- Particular work is not God's design to trump general work of private prayer as a Christian.
- God has not designed work to control our life.
 - "Paradise was man's workhouse as well as his storehouse, Gen. 2:15."
- Work was designed by God for good but never to be a replacement or used as an excuse for communion with Him

Answer 8 :

The more worldly business
you have the more need you
have of private prayer

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prayer

- If you have much work then you need more prayer
- Private prayer makes you ready to face life and the day's events, whether good or bad
- Think of all the things you may or may not face in a day — you need to pray without ceasing
- No man knows what mercies or miseries a day may bring forth;
- No man knows what good or evil a day may bring forth;

- No man knows what afflictions or temptations a day may bring forth;
- No man knows what liberty or bonds a day may bring forth;
- No man knows what good or bad success a day may bring forth;
- and therefore, a man had need be every day in his closet with God that he may be prepared and fitted to entertain and improve all the occurrences, successes, and emergencies that may attend him in the course of his life.

OBJECTION 2: NO LIBERTY

“As servants, we have no
time that we can call our
own”



Answer 1:

Private prayer is still a duty no matter your circumstances and God has not given us liberty to dismiss it no matter our status

Answer 2:

Refer to answers
1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 to the
first objection

Answer 3:

If you have liberty to
choose a new boss/job then
do it

Answer 4:

God has been gracious to you
and put His Spirit in you
for the purpose of prayer

Answer 5 :

Remember Daniel under king
Darius

Answer 6:

Gracious servants
(Christians) should go
beyond all servants in the
world

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should go beyond all servants in
the world

- Gracious servants have extraordinary privilege above all other servants in the world
- Gracious servants partake of a more excellent nature (2 Peter 1:4)
- Gracious servants are worthily descended (born of God - 1 Jn. 5:19; Jn 3:8; James 2:5)

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should go beyond all servants in
the world

- Gracious servants are worthily attended (nobly guarded - Ps. 34:15; Heb. 1:14; Zech 2:5)
- Gracious servants are worthily dignified (highest/most honorable titles -1 Pt. 2:9; Rev. 1:5-6)
- Gracious servants have many things more: more excellent graces, experiences, comforts, communions, promises, assurances, discoveries, hopes, helps, principles, diet, clothes, portion, than all other servants in the world have

Answer 7:

God alone is Lord of time

Answer 8 :

Rather redeem time from
sleep, recreations, meals
than neglect daily prayer

Answer 9 :

Gracious servants are nearly &
dearly related to God & highly
privileged by God

Answer 10:

Consider the promised
reward of the text

“And therefore hold on and hold out in your secret retirements. Though some may deride you, and others revile you, and your carnal masters discourage you, yet God is faithful and will certainly reward you; yea, he will openly reward you for all the secret pouring out of your souls in his bosom.”

-Thomas Brooks