

QTC534. Community Prayer Requests. 29 August 2024

Quiet Time Coaching Episode 534 | Community Prayer Requests | Malcolm Cox

Introduction

"...always keep on praying for all the Lord's people", wrote Paul in the Epistle to the Ephesians. What does this look like? That's what we will explore in this episode.

Last time, we finished the "new creation" series, and I promised this week would be the first in a series on Psalm 139. However, something happened on Sunday that I'd like to offer you while it is still fresh in my mind.

Post-It Prayers

On Sunday, as part of the Watford Church of Christ service, we gave out post-it notes. The congregation wrote prayer requests on them, and we collected them and prayed through some of them. Almost 30 people wrote a total of nearly 40 requests.

That evening, I typed up the complete list. After I had finished, I felt overwhelmed and inspired. I felt overwhelmed because it brought home to me how many needs we have in our fellowship (and about half the church was away on holiday, so the true extent of the church needs was probably double what was handed in). I felt inspired because of the faith displayed in these requests. The congregation are looking to God for help because they know he is the only one who can make a difference:

Psalm 121.1-2

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

God encourages us to pray for authorities and ourselves, but we must not neglect to pray for one another:

Ephesians 6.18

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Question

Do you ask people for their prayer requests and ask them to pray for you? Paul did:

“Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favourably received by the Lord’s people there....for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should....Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.” (Romans 15:31; Ephesians 6:20; Colossians 4:4)

Suggestion

Ask three people today what they would like you to pray about for them, and commit to praying for them every day for a week. If there is something you would like me to pray about, please send it over. If you would like to pray for me, please do so. My request is that I can be a Christ-like non-anxious presence in conflict situations. Thanks in advance!

Conclusion

Next time, we *will* start a series based on Psalm 139 -- unless God intervenes again!

Your brother, Malcolm

Please add your comments on this week’s topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical? Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here’s the email: malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

If you’d like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, “How God Grows His People”, sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

Please pass the link on, subscribe, and leave a review.

Consider joining us at [AIM](https://aim.moodlecloud.com/) UK & Ireland for stimulating and faith-building teaching: <https://aim.moodlecloud.com/>.

Music used in this recording: "Carpe Diem" Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com). Licensed under Creative Commons: By Attribution 4.0 License. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>