

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham on  
Monday evening 9.8.76

Hymns 1002, 922

Reading Daniel 9.1-14

In what I have read we have Daniel's confession of sin. He was an outstanding character of godliness in his life and conduct but he does not start saying 'I prayed unto the Lord because of this dreadful country', but I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession". Is there not something very striking about this, eminently godly as he was, he had a deep sense of his own sinful condition in the sight of God and is it not to some point so in experience dear friends? The nearer the Lord's dear people live to Him the more do they feel their condition, their unworthiness of the least of His mercies, so they cannot seek the Lord on the ground of any worthiness in themselves. What a mercy this is. He says "I set my face unto the Lord God, and made my confession". The affairs of the country laid heavily upon him and the state of things prevailing at the time, but he had his own case and so dear friends it will be with us, it will be our own case, where do we stand before God.

Another feature here is the sense of the Lord's mercy and goodness. He reminds the Lord that He is a covenant keeping God to them that love Him, and keep His commandments. "We have sinned and committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments" and in verses 7 and 8 he pours out an earnest entreaty that the Lord would remember them for good in those days of their captivity. What a mercy it is to have a God to go to in times of trouble and distress. Perhaps you have known the time when there has been no-one else you could go to, you could not take your case to other people, you had to take your case to God and plead it before Him.

He was eminently a man of prayer. We must pray our way to heaven friends, it is the only way as we are helped and enabled to wait upon the Lord in confession of sin and earnestly entreat His favour in the face of our unworthiness. "I set my face unto the Lord my God, and made my confession...we have sinned and committed iniquity". We are part of the nation, we are guilty with the nation, but how much the nation knows what it owes to a few praying people in it the Lord only knows. May we be among them. May we be like unto Daniel to set our faces "unto the Lord God and seek the Lord by prayer and supplication with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes". Amen.