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Prayer Meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Saturday evening 21.1.67

Hymns 402, 686

67/B/PM

Reading: Psalm 25

The Psalmist, David, confirms that he was waiting upon his God, and this is the purpose of our gathering here this evening; a sacred engagement indeed. It is a high privilege to be admitted into the presence of God in this way: to draw nigh and to seek that communion which God's dear people are favoured to feel at times in the solemn engagement of prayer.

In this Psalm it may be noticed that there are quite a number of things mentioned by the author. I would like to refer to two or three of these because they are so fitting to our own needs and cases.

One plea is for teaching and leading in the truth (v.5). If our souls are really alive to God, our great desire will be to know more of Him, to be led into those sacred mysteries that constitute the foundation of our hope; that great and good Gospel. To be shown our personal need, our guilty condition, to feel something of the malady, and then to have applied to us that blessed healing remedy of the Gospel, and the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. For this, apparently, he would be continually waiting, for he says "On Thee do I wait all the day".

Another petition is that the Lord would not remember the sins of his youth, nor his transgressions (v.7). Whatever David may have felt about his youthful earlier days, here is evident consciousness of the need of the Lord's mercy and the forgiving of his transgressions, and it is to this place we need to come. Forgiveness is so great, it was obtained at such a great cost, and it has such tremendous issues, because if our sins are forgiven in the great purposes of God, if they are borne away by the Saviour through His own sufferings, His blood-shedding, then

our eternal destiny is confirmed. We have the blessed witness that we are one of His, and have a place in His heart, and are loved with an everlasting love. How timely for each of us is the petition for the Lord's mercy to be manifested in forgiveness.

Another prayer is for preservation, to be held up. "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait on Thee." (v.21)

There are quite a number of petitions in this Psalm, and they are so beautifully linked together, and so express our desires.

The Psalmists sometimes seem to pray for us, they take up our cases, and they show us our needy condition as in Psalm 51, and a great many others too.

Now in verse 14 we have the secret, "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him". This secret is not known by the ungodly, nor the crazy world, nor those who are running the broad way. This is a secret that the Lord makes known to His redeemed ones, that they have part and lot in the matter, that their sins are washed away, and that the favour of the Lord is toward them.

I believe we can say that the things that are prayed for in this 25th. Psalm are the very things for which we need to pray.

Further reading Psalm 103 verses 1-12