

Theme - **Come one, Come all..... Preacher Michael Palmer**

Bible Texts - Exodus 32:1-14, Matthew 22:1-14 and Philippians 4:1-9

**A. One and all - we have a responsibility to Pray**

What does prayer achieve? Can prayer alter God's pre-ordained plans? Is prayer a dialogue able to change God? There seems to be much mystery concerning the efficacy of prayer but never the less we know that prayer is part of being God's people and it characterised Jesus life. Knowing that God asks us to and that Jesus modelled prayer should be enough for us even if we do not always know if our prayers 'change anything'!

Hence - Without loosing heart we pray. See Philippians 4:6

**B. One and all - we have a responsibility to appreciate that the foundation of our belonging to the people of God is **By Promise****

We come to God knowing that our belonging to God is part of the faithful promise of God to bless and to call. Belonging is a corporate reality - not individual - at least not as independent individuals. We are inter-dependant in the community of faith (A body). Once we know this reality, and our need of one another, we could never think of allowing anyone to 'fall out' of God's covenantal love - or be excluded from the body or unwelcome in the body, hence, knowing this, Moses can do no other but to call to mind the promises of God to Abraham when God allows God's self to be persuaded - God leaves the door open for intercession - in Exodus 32:9-10

**C. One and all - we should know and live **Our Part****

1. Know both the promises of God (esp. Genesis 12:1-3) and also of the Steadfast Kindness that God faithfully employs to fulfil those promises - (From Abraham to Moses to Joshua to David to Jesus!)

2. Pray in the light of those promises and according to the character of God as seen in God's covenantal faithfulness (They will inform our prayers - as Moses was informed by the part of God's plan that had been revealed to him))

3. Live in the light - those promises and God's faithful character. Not like the banquet guest without a wedding attire! (Matthew 22:1-14)

10 Commandments should have informed Aaron's worship

Phil.4:2-3 - Reconciliation,

Phil.4:4-9 - Rejoice/pray/patience/fill your mind with true and honourable things.