

# **A STUDY ON PRAYER**

## **HYPOCRITES DEFICIENT IN THE DUTY OF PRAYER**

*Ah, whither could we flee for aid When tempted, desolate, dismayed?  
Or how the hosts of hell defeat, Had suffering saints no mercy-seat?*

— Hugh Stowell

### I. Review of where we are

- A. Why Prayer is Important?
- B. We have a God who Hears!

### II. Using the Job 27 model

- A. Hypocrites continue for a season to pray to God
  - 1. Have received illuminations and affections
  - 2. Introduced into a state of safety
- B. Hypocrite's manner is to, after a while, leave off the practice of this duty
  - 1. Commonly continue in a show of prayer
  - 2. Leave off the practice of secret prayer (Matthew 6:6)
- C. Reasons why this is the manner of hypocrites
  - 1. Never had the spirit (Zechariah 3:10, Romans 8:26)
  - 2. Hypocrite takes off the force of the command
  - 3. Returning to Sinful practices
  - 4. Never counting the cost of perseverance in seeking God
  - 5. No interest in the gracious promises God made to His people
    - a. Jeremiah 32:40
    - b. I Thessalonians 5:23-24

### III. An Exhortation

- A. Are you in fact saved?
  - 1. Will you retain hope which by evident experience you find poisons you?
  - 2. Is your living consistent with loving God above all?
  - 3. Restraining prayer is inconsistent with love AND fear (Job 15:4, Psalm 36:1)
  - 4. Showing good will to neglect the worship of God
  - 5. Eternity equaling neglect and forsaking here?
- B. Please continue in prayer
  - 1. Prescriptive
  - 2. Descriptive

### IV. How can we seek the presence of God?