

Prayer Series
Lights and Perfections
11/20/21
Newport News

Opening/Introduction

-Exodus 28:15-30 **(show rendering of Aaron in Exodus 28 garments)**

>they were exquisitely and prophetically adorned!

-pray

-new series on prayer...

-One of the most mysterious mentions in all of Scripture is the Urim and Thummim.

Urim and Thummim

-Not only is there is vast disagreement as to what they were and how they were used, there isn't even full agreement on how to translate the words!

-Urim

- Root is "Ur" which can be light or fire
- The suffix "im" makes that plural
- So Urim could mean "Lights"

-Thummin

- Believed to be a derivation of "tom" which means perfection or completeness
- The suffix "im" makes that plural
- So Thummin could mean "Perfections"

-Numbers 27:21

-Some believed they were used to draw out of the pouch and one stone was God's yes and the other was God's no. Josephus writes they were bright before victory and darkened before impending doom. Others believe that the stones when worn by the high priest supernaturally enabled him to perfectly discern God's will.

-I believe every instance of mystery in the Bible is put there intentionally by God to create curiosity!

-Psalm 119:105

-This is my conclusion...God wants you and I to be enlightened by His perfect will and Urim and Thummim are plural (lights and perfections) because there is no end to his plans and purposes for our lives. And there will never be a time when we aren't dependent on Him for revelation!

Urim and Thummim Today (not handing out gems today!)

-Hebrews 4:14-16...we have a High Priest in Jesus!

-Romans 12:1...Jesus is the final sacrifice and through complete devotion to Jesus, that sacrifice is effectual for us. (like sitting down at Jesus' table, we are on his tab!)

-Romans 12:2...Jesus is our pattern and we have been given His mind!

- Paul is arguing what our pattern should be by stating what it must not be (should not be secular but rather...)
 - The Way of Jesus' Belief
 - The Way of Jesus' Character
 - The Way of Jesus' Obedience
 - The Way of Jesus' Peace
- 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, 16b (given at salvation, perfected in discipleship!!!)
- The mind of Christ does NOT displace the mind of Adam...we have to learn to discern with the One and not the other
- Which is why Paul begins with "Do not conform..." as it takes a lifetime of discipleship to do this!

-And notice the language here in Romans 12:2

- “to prove” (to know, to be enlightened...lights)
- “good and acceptable and perfect” (...and perfections)

-Recap

>God wants you and I to be enlightened by His perfect will (lights and perfections).

>There is no end to his plans and purposes for our lives.

>There will never be a time when we aren't dependent on Him for revelation. (talk about parenting and launching children)

>And with the mind of Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can learn to discern God's perfect will for our lives in all circumstances.

-Updated prayer formula

➤ Worship Him + Thank Him + Petition Him = Prayer

➤ Worship Him (listen) = Thank Him (listen) = Petition Him (listen) = Prayer

Transactional or Relational

-If my decision to pray is based on this question: "Why should I pray if God already knows what I am going to tell Him?" Consider this, the sentiment that creates that question is this: "I don't need to pray if God doesn't need me."

-If my decision to pray is based on this question: "Why should I pray if God has already predetermined the outcome of the situation?" Consider this, the sentiment that creates that question is this: "I don't need prayer if I'm not going to get what I want."

-1 Thessalonians 5:12-18 (give some commentary)

-verse 17 does not mean that we should be in a state of constant prayer...it means that prayer is something we should always come back to!

Band

-Did the Israelites keep coming back to the Urim and Thummim because they just wanted to be enlightened by God's perfect will? Or did the Urim and Thummim keep them coming back because those objects reminded them how special it was to be chosen by God to belong to Him and to know Him?

*-So I have this image in my head of someone at work next week saying they visited a church and someone asking what they talked about and you saying...I don't know...something about prayer and **Uma Thurman**...lol!*

-Does God want you to be enlightened by the knowledge of His perfect will? Yes. But even more so, He wants you to remember that you too have been chosen to belong to Him and to know to Him...so keep coming back to prayer.

Close

-(in the moment)