

My Prayer for the Churches of Shiloh
Sermon to the Shiloh Association (June 7, 2018)

- **That Our LOVE Not Grow Cold**

Love for God -- Matthew 22:37-40 – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' this is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Love for Others (especially the Church) -- Romans 12:10 – "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Philippians 2:2-5 – "...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."

The REASON we need to pray that our love not grow cold:

Matthew 24:10-13 – "At that time many will turn away from the faith, and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved."

- **That the Lord Increases Our UNITY in Christ --**

John 17:20-23 – Jesus' prayer for the church, right before He went to the cross to die:

"I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their [the disciples] message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as We are one: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."

- The apostle Paul prays and appeals for Unity among the church:

- 1 Corinthians 1:10 – "I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."
- Romans 15:5-6 – "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Lord, as Paul prayed, we pray for Unity in the Faith among the churches of Shiloh.

- **That We Remain STEADFAST in the Truth**

- Jude 17-22 – "But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, 'In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.' These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh."
- The apostle Paul urges the church:
 - Romans 16:17-18 – "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."

- **That We Honestly ENCOURAGE One Another in the Faith**

- Hebrews 10:23-25 – "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

The apostle Paul gives the reason it is so vitally important to encourage one another in the Lord:

- Hebrews 3:12-13 – "See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

- **That There Would Be Heartfelt PRAYER for the Saints**

- Ephesians 6:18 – "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."

A crucial reason we are to pray:

- Ephesians 6:12 – "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

- **That the Power of the SPIRIT Would Be in Our Churches**

Jesus said to His disciples, right before He ascended to Heaven after His resurrection:

- Acts 1:7 – "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth."
- 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 – "But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, 'God is really among you!'"

This should be our prayer for all of our churches in this Association: when people come into our churches to visit or inquire...that they would sense the presence of God among us; that those who just step in our doors would feel a great conviction of God...because God is very present among us as the church.

So I urge you, pray for the Holy Spirit of God to fill our churches in everything we do in this Association. We are helpless and powerless without God. We can do nothing apart from Jesus. Let us pray that we surrender our everything to Him, and that He take absolute and total control of each and every single church in this Association. God opposes the proud, but He gives grace to the humble...so let us pray that the Lord humble us, so His power may fill our churches.