**Scripture:** Malachi 1

**Singing:** 225:1-3 – 86:1-3 – 57:1-3 – 150:1-4

**Opening observations on prayer…**

A. Approaching God in prayer is *dangerous work* (Lev. 10:1-2)

 1. It is an ***absolute must***to honor the Divine royal code of approach

 *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiness by*

*the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.* Heb. 10:19-20 (John 10:9; 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 7:25)

B. Using the proper address is crucial also (Mal. 1:6; Mark 10:17-18)

C. Faith is key aspect in prayer (Heb. 11:6)

 *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is*

*like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.* (James 1:5-7; compare with Mark. 9:22-23)

**The Address of Prayer (2)**

I. Why an address? II. What is the address?

**II. What is the address in Lord’s Prayer?**

A. Jesus’ teaching majored in revealing God as Father

1. The Lord Jesus *nurtured His disciples in knowledge of their Father*

 a. Matt 5:45-48; 6:1-18; 6:32; 7:11

 2. Why did Jesus *major on Father’s Name?*

 a. Because it is God’s *most intimate Name* for His Church

 b. Because we all are familiar with *the importance of a father*

B. Jesus’ address *Our Father which art in heaven* as **two main purposes**

1**. to remind us to always display *reverence* (Mal. 1:6-8)**

a. compare *speaking to God* to *meeting a high-ranking person*

 b. always bear in mind: *He is not on our level* (Is. 6:1-3; Gen. 18:27)

 c. as God is *in heaven,* all approach to God in prayer is *sacred*

 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, in visible, the only*

 *wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen* (1 Tim. 1:17; also 6:16)

 d. true for *public worship, family and private worship*

 **2. to remind us always to have *childlike confidence***

a. if saved, you possess the privilege of *having God as your Father*

 *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to*

 *be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.* (Col. 1:12; as well as Eph. 1:3)

 b. this confidence in the Father’s character and His adoption of us

 bring *liberty to call upon Him as Father*

c. if you are called by grace, don’t live under the *privilege of grace*

 ● grasp and use privilege of Romans 8:31-32

 *If God be for us, who can be against us? He that*

*spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.*

Concluding thoughts on ***Our Father***

A. It means there is *one Father with many children*

 1. Do we practice in prayer *the communion of saints?*

 2. Do we live with God’s other children like Rom. 15:5 & Phil. 2:2-3?

B. It means there are *many people who don’t have God as Father in Christ*

 1. Bible knows nothing of *a universal Fatherhood of all mankind*

 *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love Me!*

 *Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father ye will do.*

(See John 8:42, 44; also Matt. 7:22)

 2. Let this naked truth as Jesus stated it so sharply alarm your soul!

C. It means that **though content of LD** is appropriate for all to pray,

 the use of this address (Father in Christ) is reserved to believers