

"PRAYER AS A RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION"

ACTS 4:23-31

I. THE THEME OF THIS PRAYER

A. Possible Approaches

1. Fear
2. Indignation
3. Caution

B. Proper Approach: Conviction

II. THIS IS A PRAYER THAT EXTOLS GOD FOR HIS SOVEREIGNTY

A. By The Title That Is Use For Him: *Despotes* (4:24a)

1. They Understood That God Has Unrestricted Authority & Rights
2. There Is One Other Prayer That Begins With This Particular Title For God (Rev. 6:9-11)

B. By The Wisdom He Has Demonstrated In Creation (4:24b)

III. THIS IS A PRAYER THAT EXTOLS GOD FOR THE FACT THAT HE HAS SPOKEN & WILL REMAIN TRUE TO HIS WORD (4:25-28)

A. Psalm 2 Is Quoted As A Timeless Principle To Demonstrate The Utter Futility Of Human Rebellion (4:25-26)

B. Everything That Any Enemy Of God Plots Against The Lord & Against His People Proves To Be An Empty, Profitless Enterprise (4:27-28)

1. Man Will Do His Worse (4:27)
2. God's Eternal Purposes Will Be Accomplished (4:28)

IV. THIS IS A PRAYER THAT EXTOLS GOD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS IN HEARING & ANSWERING PETITIONS (4:29-31)