

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, September 20, 2009

*"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*

John 15:7

Unless you're really into church history, you've probably never heard of John Chrysostom. In addition to being Archbishop of Constantinople from 398 to 407 AD, he was known to be an eloquent and passionate preacher of the Gospel of Christ. "Chrysostom" was, in fact, his nickname. It means "Golden Mouth." He was the Spurgeon or John Piper of his day.

And that's why I'm introducing him to you this morning. Once, while preaching on prayer from Mark 11:22-26, the same passage we'll be looking at this morning, Chrysostom had this to say:

Prayer is an all-efficient panoply (something that gives you everything you need), a treasure undiminished, a mine never exhausted, a sky unobstructed by clouds, a haven unruffled by storm. It is the root, the fountain, and the mother of a thousand blessings. It exceeds a monarch's power. . . . I speak not of prayer which is cold and feeble and devoid of zeal. I speak of that which proceeds from a mind outstretched, the child of a contrite spirit, the offspring of a soul converted – this is the prayer which mounts to heaven. . . The power of prayer has subdued the strength of fire, bridled the rage of lions, silenced anarchy, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, enlarged the gates of heaven, relieved diseases, averted frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. In sum, prayer has power to destroy whatever is at enmity with the good. I speak not of the prayer of the lips but of the prayer that ascends from the inmost recesses of the heart.

May God give us such a spirit of believing prayer as we seek Him this morning..
Longing to see His glory with you!

Pastor Scott