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First Edition: November 1999

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AL-HIDAAYAH PUBLISHING & DISTRIBUTION
522 Coventry Road, Birmingham, B10 OUN, UK. Tel: 0044-121-753 1889
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والثمن الجنة

Establish the Prayers ...and the Prize is Paradise

By

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Translated by
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DARUSSALAM
Publishers and Distributors
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of Allâh, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

This is Allâh's Order:

"Perform *As-Salât* (*Iqamât-as-Salât*) from mid-day till the darkness of the night (i.e. the *Zuhr*, *'Asr*, *Maghrib*, and *'Ishâ'* prayers), and recite the Qur'ân in the early dawn (i.e. the *Fajr* prayer). Verily, the recitation of the Qur'ân in the *Fajr* is ever witnessed (attended by the angels in charge of mankind of the day and the night)."
(17:78)

And there is another advice:

"Guard strictly (five obligatory) *As-Salawât* (the prayers) especially the middle *Salât* (i.e. the best prayer – *'Asr*). And stand before Allâh with obedience [and do not speak to others during the *Salât* (prayers)]."
(2:238)

Publishers Note

All the praises and thanks are due to Allâh, the *Rubb* of the worlds, and may Allâh exalt the mention of the Prophet Muhammad, the chosen, the trustworthy, and the mention of his Household and all of his Companions.

'Establish the Prayers ...The Prize is Paradise' is very enlightening booklet by Abdul-Malik Al-Qasim, a renowned religion scholar and an expert of Arabic language. *As-Salat* (Prayer) is one of the most important pillars of Islam, and Muslims are ordered strictly to perform it on the mentioned times. It is the obligation, which will be questioned on the Day of Resurrection first of all, and if the answerer is successful then Allâh will take it easy and forgive the worshiper of the Oneness of Allâh. Allâh says:

> "...and bow down along with *Ar-Râki'ûn* (those who bow down in prayer)."

Early generation of the Muslim *Ummah* was very strict in performing obligatory *Salat* with its due consideration and honor. The *Salaf* were also dedicated in preserving this great command and made sure to be in the first line in the Mosque for consecutive years. Indeed, the congregational prayer is a worthy prize, but nowadays people are very lazy, specially the young generation is badly involved in its business and is not giving the answering to the call of *Adhân.* Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

> "If the people but knew the reward of (answering) the *Adhân* and attendance in the first line, and had to draw lots to be in it, they would do so." (*Al-Bukhari* and *Muslim*)

Due to its importance Usaid bin Ja'far said:

> "I never saw my uncle Bishr bin Mansur miss the first *Takbir*, and whenever any person stood up in our Mosque to ask people for help, my uncle gave him something."

In view of its importance, Darussalam has rendered this booklet into the English language with prior permission from the author. Brother Jalal Abualrub accepted the task of translation, and performed it very well.

Finally, I am grateful to all brothers who have contributed in bringing about this valuable book. May Allâh accept our sincere efforts regarding the propagation of His religion throughout the world, and bestow on us His blessings to fulfil our resolution in this regard — *Âmin*!

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Introduction

All thanks are due to Allâh, Who promised those who obey Him with Paradise, beneath which rivers flow and which no eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard and what has never been imagined by a human heart of delights and joys. May Allâh's peace and blessings be on the most honorable Prophet and Messenger, the best of those who ever prayed, fasted and worshipped Allâh until the final truth of this world, death, came to him.

In booklet titled, '*Establish the Prayers ...The Prize is Paradise*', we are going to discuss an important subject, *As-Salat* (the prayer).

Many people in the present time have ignored and even abandoned the prayer, especially since we are in the age of weakness in religion, laziness with regards to performing acts of worship and busy with worldly affairs. This is why, it is important that we mention the vigor and exalted manner with which our righteous ancestors rushed to perform this great act of worship, so that the prayer might become closer to our hearts and our resolve become stronger. We ask Allâh to make our acts all for the Sake of His Most Honorable Presence.

Abdul Malik bin Muhammad bin
Abdul Rahman Al-Qasim

As-Salât (The Prayer)

The prayer has an exalted status in Islam that is unrivaled by any other act of worship. The prayer is the pillar of Islam, on which the religion is firmly established. The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«رَأْسُ الأَمْرِ الإِسْلاَمُ وَعَمُودُهُ الصَّلاَةُ، وَذُرْوَةُ سَنَامِه الجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللهِ».

"The head of the matter (religion) is Islam, its pillar is the prayer and its highest peak is *Jihad* for Allâh's Cause." (Collected by *At-Tirmidhi*, *Ibn Majah* and *Ahmad*, and rendered authentic by Al-Albani)

The prayer is an obligation that is necessary throughout one's life and must be established even in times of fear. Allâh said:

﴿حَـٰفِظُوا۟ عَلَى ٱلصَّلَوَٰتِ وَٱلصَّلَوٰةِ ٱلْوُسْطَىٰ وَقُومُوا۟ لِلَّهِ قَـٰنِتِينَ ۝ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ فَرِجَالًا أَوْ رُكْبَانًا ۖ فَإِذَآ أَمِنتُمْ فَٱذْكُرُوا۟ ٱللَّهَ كَمَا عَلَّمَكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا۟ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ [البقرة: ٢٣٨، ٢٣٩]

"Guard strictly (five obligatory) *As-Salawât* (the prayers) especially the middle *Salât* (i.e., the best prayer – *'Asr*). And stand before Allâh with obedience [and do not speak to others during the *Salât* (prayer)]. And if you fear (an enemy), perform *Salât* on foot or riding. And when you are in safety, offer the *Salât* in the manner He has taught you, which you knew not (before)." (2:238-239)

The prayer is the first act of worship that Allâh has

ordained, the first act for which the slave will be recompensed (on the Day of Resurrection) and the last commandment that the Prophet ﷺ kept repeating prior to his death:

«الصَّلاةَ، الصَّلاةَ، ومَا ملكت أَيْمانُكم».

"(Preserve) the prayer, the prayer, and what your right hands possess (slaves)." (*Ibn Majah* and *Ahmad* collect this *Hadith*, which Al-Albani rendered authentic)

The prayer will be the last pillar of Islam that will be given up, indicating that the entire religion will then have been given up. The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ said:

«لتُنقَضَنَّ عُرَى الإسلامِ عُرْوَةً عُرْوَةً، فكُلَّما انتَقَضتْ عُرْوةٌ تَشبَّثَ النَّاسُ بالَّتي تَلِيها، فأَوَّلُهن نَقْضًا الحُكْمُ وآخرُهنَّ الصَّلاةُ».

"The pillars of Islam will be given up one after another, and every time a pillar is given up, people will adhere to the next one; the first being government and last being the prayer." [Ahmad, Ibn Hibban and Al-Hakim collected this *Hadith*, which Al-Albani rendered *Sahih* (authentic)].

Allâh mentioned the prayer among the basic ingredients to gain guidance, purity and piety. Allâh, the Exalted, said:

﴿الٓمٓ ۝ ذَٰلِكَ ٱلْكِتَـٰبُ لَا رَيْبَ ۛ فِيهِ ۛ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ ۝ ٱلَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِٱلْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَـٰهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ﴾ [البقرة: ١-٣]

"*Alif-Lâm-Mîm.* This is the Book (the Qur'ân), whereof there is no doubt, a guidance to those who are *Al-Muttaqûn*. Who believe in the *Ghaib* and perform *As-Salât* (*Iqâmat-as-Salât*), and spend out

of what we have provided for them (i.e., give *Zakât*)." (2:1-3)

Allâh has also excluded those who establish the prayer perfectly and on time from the group of people, who have ill conduct:

﴿ ۞ إِنَّ ٱلْإِنسَٰنَ خُلِقَ هَلُوعًا ۝ إِذَا مَسَّهُ ٱلشَّرُّ جَزُوعًا ۝ وَإِذَا مَسَّهُ ٱلْخَيْرُ مَنُوعًا ۝ إِلَّا ٱلْمُصَلِّينَ ۝ ٱلَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ دَآئِمُونَ ﴾ [المعارج: ١٩-٢٣]

"Verily, man (disbeliever) was created very impatient; irritable (discontented) when evil touches him; and niggardly when good touches him. Except those who are devoted to *Salât* (prayers). Those who remain constant in their *Salât* (prayers)." (70:19-23)

Also, Allâh said, while describing the people of the Fire:

﴿ مَا سَلَكَكُمْ فِى سَقَرَ ۝ قَالُوا۟ لَمْ نَكُ مِنَ ٱلْمُصَلِّينَ ﴾ [المدثر: ٤٢، ٤٣]

"'What has caused you to enter Hell?' They will say: 'We were not of those who used to offer the *Salât* (prayers).'" (74:42-43)

Furthermore, Allâh has warned those who abandon the prayer:

﴿ فَوَيْلٌ لِّلْمُصَلِّينَ ۝ ٱلَّذِينَ هُمْ عَن صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ ﴾ [الماعون: ٤، ٥]

"So woe unto those performers of *Salât* (prayers) (hypocrites). Those who delay their *Salât*." (107:4,5)

This *Âyah* sternly warns against delaying performing the prayer until its designated fixed time passes.

Allâh has warned against abandoning the prayer and threatened those who do so with severe torment:

﴿ ۞ فَخَلَفَ مِنۢ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا۟ ٱلصَّلَوٰةَ وَٱتَّبَعُوا۟ ٱلشَّهَوَٰتِ ۖ فَسَوْفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غَيًّا ﴾ [مريم: ٥٩]

"Then, there has succeeded them a posterity who have given up *As-Salât* (the prayers) and have followed lusts. So they will be thrown in Hell." (19:59)

Throughout history, Muslims took special care of the prayer, imitating the Prophet ﷺ, whom 'Âishah رضى الله عنها described:

«كَانَ رَسُولُ اللهِ ﷺ يُحَدِّثُنا ونُحَدِّثُه، فَإِذَا حَضَرَتِ الصَّلاةُ فَكَأَنَّه لم يَعْرِفْنا ولم نَعْرِفْهُ».

"The Messenger of Allâh ﷺ used to talk to us and we talk to him. But when the time for prayer started, he would act as if we did not know him or if he did not know us."

Indeed, the Messenger ﷺ is our best example in this and any other act of piety and worship.

The righteous *Salaf* imitated the Prophetic guidance with regards to being conscientious about the prayer. For instance, Sa'id bin Al-Musayyab رضى الله عنه was so meticulous concerning his dedication to the prayer that for forty years he made sure to enter the mosque before the *Adhân* (the call to prayer), as Burd the servant of Sa'id narrated. Burd said:

"For forty years, the *Adhân* was never called but Sa'id bin Al-Musayyab رضى الله عنه was in the mosque before it was called."[1]

[1] *Tabaqhatu Al-Hanabilah*, vol. 1, P. 141; *Hilyatu Al-Auliyaa*, vol. 2, p. 163; and *Sifatu As-Safwah*, vol. 2, p. 80

Further, Rabi'ah bin Yazid said:

"For the past forty years, the caller to prayer (the *Mu'adhdhin*) never called the people to *Zuhr* Prayer without me being in the mosque, except when I was ill or traveling."[1]

The *Salaf* obeyed the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, who ordered Muslims to preserve and protect the prayer when he said:

«اعْلَمُوا أَنَّ خَيْرَ أَعْمَالِكُمُ الصَّلاةُ، ولا يُحَافِظُ عَلَى الْوُضُوء إِلَّا مُؤْمِن».

"Know that the prayer is the best of your acts and only a believer preserves *Wudû'*."[2] (Collected by *Ahmad*, *Al-Bayhaqi* and *Al-Hakim*, and rendered authentic by Al-Albani)

Also, men who are known to be righteous Muslims testified that other righteous Muslims preserved the congregational prayer in the mosque for years in a row. For instance, Yahya bin Ma'in narrated that Yahya bin Sa'id attended the congregational *Zuhr* Prayer in the mosque for forty years in a row.[3]

The hearts of this type of Muslims are tied to the mosques, and it is they, to whom the Prophet ﷺ gave this glad tiding:

«سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُم اللهُ فِي ظِلِّه يَومَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّه»

[1] *As-Siyar*, vol. 5, p. 240

[2] i.e. by making sure to perform *Wudû'* perfectly, also by making *Wudû'* whenever one losses his *Wudû'* (i.e., by passing gas or answering the call of nature etc.)

[3] *As-Siyar*, vol. 9, p. 181, *Tadhkiratul-Huffadh*, vol. 1. p. 229; and *Az-Zuhd*, p. 530

"Allâh will give shade, to seven, on the Day when there will be no shade but His."

The Prophet ﷺ mentioned among these seven types of people:

«رَجُلٌ قَلبهُ مُعَلَّق بِالمَسَاجِد إِذَا خَرَج مِنْهُ حَتَّى يَعُودَ إِلَيه».

"A man whose heart is attached to the mosque (to pray the compulsory prayers in the mosque in congregation). From the time he departs from it until he comes back." (*Al-Bukhâri* and *Muslim*)

This is why Sufyan bin 'Uyainah encouraged Muslims to come to prayer even before the call of *Adhân* is pronounced.[1]

The Prophet ﷺ gave guidance that supports all this, when he said:

«أَلَا أَدُلُّكمْ عَلى مَا يَمْحُو اللهُ بِهِ الخَطَايَا، وَيَرْفَعُ بِهِ الدَّرَجَاتِ؟ قَالُوا: بَلى يَارَسُولَ الله. قَالَ: إِسْبَاغُ الوُضُوء عَلى المَكَارِه، وَكثرةُ الخُطَا إِلَى المَسَاجِد، وانْتِظَارُ الصَّلاة بعدَ الصَّلاة، فَذَلِكُمُ الرِّباطُ، فَذَلِكُم الرِّباطُ».

"Should I direct you to (righteous) acts because of which Allâh erases sins and elevates grades?" They said, "Yes, O Allâh's Messenger (ﷺ)!" He said, "Performing perfect Ablution in unfavorable conditions (such as extreme cold), the many steps one often takes to the mosque and awaiting the prayer after the prayer (in the mosque); verily, this is *Ar-Ribat*[2], this is *Ar-Ribat*, this is *Ar-Ribat*."

[1] *At-Tabsirah*, by Ibn Al-Jauzi, vol. 1, p. 137

[2] *Ar-Ribat*: to man Muslim outposts to protect Muslim lands from enemy attack.