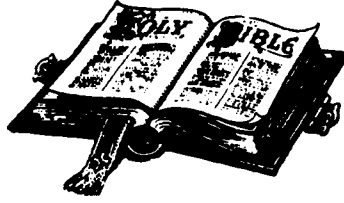


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 30

AUGUST, 1993

Number 8

WHOSE PRAYER WILL GOD HEAR?

Many people are of the opinion that God will hear (in the sense of answering) the prayers of **all** who pray to Him. However, there is **no evidence** in the Scriptures that such is the case. The truth about this subject (as well as others) is revealed in the Scriptures.

Let us examine this question ("Whose prayer will God hear?") in light of divine revelation. First, let us consider the question from a **negative** viewpoint. **GOD WILL NOT HEAR:**

1. **SINNERS!** The blind man (whose sight was restored by Jesus) said: "Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth." (John 9:31). NOTE: The unbelieving Jews had said, "... We know that this man is a sinner," and "... We know not from whence he is." (See John 9:24, 29). It was in this context that the blind man spoke in verse 31. Also see Isaiah 59:1-2.

2. **THE WICKED!** "The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the

righteous." (Proverbs 15:29). Also see Psalms 34:16; 1 Peter 3:12.

3. **THOSE WHO DISREGARD HIS LAW!** In the prior dispensation Solomon declared: "**He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**" (Proverbs 28:9). NOTE: Not only would God not hear the person who would not hear the law of God, but even his prayer was an **abomination** to God!

4. **THOSE WHO REGARD INIQUITY IN THEIR HEARTS!** The Psalmist said: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Psalms 66:18).

Although God will not hear those discussed above, God's word teaches that **GOD WILL HEAR:**

1. **THE RIGHTEOUS!** Peter said: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: ..." (1 Peter 3:12) A long time ago the Psalmist said: "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face

(Continued on page 4)

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(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

NO APOLOGY IS NEEDED!

Living in a world that lies in wickedness and feeling the pressures from those who are evil, it is easy for a person to feel the need to apologize when he (or she) acts **differently** from others. The pressures from a wicked and adulterous society and from soft, spineless, weak, compromising members of the body of Christ tends to intimidate many Christians and cause them to feel the need of apologizing for their righteous actions. However, **no apology is needed for doing right!**

There are times when you need to apologize. For example, when you have lost your temper and lost control of your thoughts, speech and actions and either have wronged another or have set the wrong example, **you should apologize and request forgiveness.** (See Proverbs 16:32; 14:29; 29:20; James 1:19-20). This is true of you when you have committed any sin as a child of God. However, **no apology is needed when you do right!**

YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE:

1. FOR YOUR FAITH IN GOD AND IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST! Please carefully read and consider Hebrews 11:6; John 5:24; John 14:1-2; John 20:30-31; John 8:21-24 and 1 John 4:15.

2. FOR BELIEVING THERE IS "ONE BODY, AND ONE SPIRIT, EVEN AS YE ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING: ONE

LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE ALL, AND THROUGH ALL, AND IN YOU ALL." Please carefully read and seriously consider Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 8:24; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Jude 3; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38.

3. FOR BELIEVING THAT AN ALIEN SINNER MUST BELIEVE, REPENT, CONFESS FAITH AND BE BAPTIZED IN ORDER TO BE SAVED! Please read and examine very carefully Mark 16:15-16; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:6-38 and Galatians 3:26-27.

4. FOR BELIEVING THAT TRUE WORSHIP MUST BE IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH! (See John 4:23-24; Matthew 15:7-9).

5. FOR LIVING A PURE LIFE! (See Titus 2:11-12; Eph. 5:1-12; 1 Tim. 5:22; 1 John 3:3; Mt. 5:8).

6. FOR BEING HONEST IN YOUR BUSINESS DEALINGS! We are taught in God's Word to **be honest** and to **live honestly.** (See Romans 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21; Heb. 13:18).

7. FOR HEARING THE FACTS ABOUT A SITUATION (BOTH SIDES) BEFORE JUDGING! It seems that most people prefer **not** to hear all the **facts** before judging in most situations. NOTE: Many preachers are **guilty of refusing** to hear **both** sides of situations where there is conflict. This is shameful! (See Proverbs 18:17; 18:13; John 7:24).

8. FOR TELLING THE TRUTH! (See Proverbs 8:7; 12:17; 12:19; 16:6; 23:23; John 8:32; 8:40; 45; Gal. 4:16; Eph. 4:15; Col. 3:9-10; Eph. 4:25).

9. FOR DRESSING MODESTLY! Although many people have **lost** their shamefastness to the point that **they cannot even blush**, you owe **no one** an apology for wearing **modest clothing with shamefacedness and sobriety at all times.** (Carefully study 1 Timothy 2:9).

10. FOR BEING COURTEOUS AND KIND! It is always in order to follow the injunctions of the Holy Spirit whether others do or not. (See 1 Peter 3:8; Eph. 4:31-32; 1 Cor. 13:4).

NO APOLOGY IS NEEDED!

11. FOR PLAINNESS, FRANKNESS AND CANDOR AT THE RIGHT TIME! (Consider John 11:14; John 16:25 and 2 Cor. 3:12). NOTE: In Mark 10:17-27 Jesus spake with frankness because of His love for the rich, young ruler who came running to him. (See verse 21.) Also consider Paul's plainness in his rebuke of Peter in Gal. 2:11-14.

12. FOR BELIEVING THAT THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD NOT BE DESTROYED OR BLURRED BY CLOTHES, ACTIONS OR ATTITUDES! Please study carefully the principles contained in the following passages: Matthew 19:4-5; Gen. 1:27; 2:18; 3:16, 17, 19; Deuteronomy 5; 1 Cor. 11:3, 7-9; 4-5; 14-15; Eph. 5:22-33; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Tim. 5:14; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Tim. 2:11-15; 1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

13. FOR CONFESSING YOUR SINS! A study of Acts 8:12-24; James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9 should be enough evidence for any honest heart to see the necessity of a child of God confessing sins of which he is guilty.

14. FOR BELIEVING THAT BAPTISM IS A CONDITION OF SALVATION! (Consider Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:304; Gal. 3:26-27 and 1 Peter 3:21.)

15. FOR PURE THOUGHTS AND PURE SPEECH! (See Proverbs 23:7; 4:23; Matthew 5:8; Mark 7:20-23; Phil. 4:8; Eph. 4:29; Matthew 12:34-37 and James 2:12.)

16. FOR BELIEVING THAT WHOSEVER MARRIES A DIVORCED PERSON COMMITS ADULTERY! Please read carefully the words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 (especially the last part of both verses). NOTE: As you read these verses please do allow your emotions to over ride your reasoning. Simply take what the verses say.

17. FOR FORGIVING ANOTHER — EVEN AN ENEMY! (See Matthew 6:12, 14-15; 18:21-22, 35; Mark 11:25-26;

2 Cor. 2:7; Luke 17:3-5; Matthew 5:44.)

18. FOR REFUSING TO TAKE OATHS, EVEN JUDICIAL OATHS! Please read carefully the words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:33-37. Note the fact that he said, “. . . **Swear not at all, . . .**” Please note that Jesus also said, “**But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: For whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.**”

If you have difficulty understanding the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:33-37, please honestly read James 5:12 which says: “**But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.**”

How could language be any plainer? If the above passages do not prohibit “**all oaths**” including **judicial oaths**, please tell me what language **could** have been used that would have prohibited judicial oaths?

19. FOR RETURNING GOOD FOR EVIL! A study of such passages as Romans 12:19-21; Matthew 5:43-48; 5:8-42; 1 Cor. 4:12 and Romans 12:14 should convince each of us of our responsibility along this line.

20. FOR BELIEVING THE WORD OF GOD! (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:25; 1:21; Romans 10:8; 10:17; 1:16; 1 Peter 1:22-25 and John 12:48).

21. FOR OPPOSING SIN, INCLUDING ADULTERY, HOMOSEXUALITY, GAMBLING, DRINKING INTOXICANTS, ABORTION, ETC. (See Galatians 5:19-21; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Peter 4:3.)

22. FOR BEING STEDFAST IN THE FAITH, UNMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING THE WORK OF THE LORD! (See 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Cor. 15:58.)

No, no apology is needed when you do things that are right!

(CRS)

WHOSE PRAYER WILL GOD HEAR?

(Continued from page 1)

of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of their troubles." (34:15-17). NOTE: **To be righteous** (and to be born of Christ) **one must do righteousness.** (See 1 John 2:29; Acts 10:35; Rom 1:16; Mark 16:16).

2. **THOSE WHO WORSHIP GOD AND DO HIS WILL!** The blind man (whose sight was restored by Jesus) said: "... **If any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.**" (John 9:31). NOTE: This is **not** describing an alien sinner who is at "an old fashioned altar" trying to "pray through" to salvation! "Praying through to salvation" is NOT taught in God's Word!

3. **THOSE WHO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS!** John stated:

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those thing that are pleasing in his sight." (1 John 3:22). NOTE: One must hear, believe and **obey** God's will in order to become a child of God and thus be in position to pray with the assurance that God will answer his prayers. (See John 3:3-5; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 3:26-27).

Let none of us be guilty of arbitrarily setting the conditions of acceptable prayer to God. God's Word is the only standard to which we may appeal.

Only those who are **God's children** have the right to pray, saying, "**Our Father which art in heaven, . . .**" All other accountable people are "**Children of the wicked one.**" (Cf. Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 13:38; John 8:44).
WILL GOD HEAR YOUR PRAYER?
(CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Goodness is an investment that never fails to pay rich dividends.

* * * * *

Kind words, cheerful smiles and helping hands are the rays of sunshine through clouds of sorrow.

* * * * *

To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it.

* * * * *

When calamity comes your integrity is tested.

* * * * *

Your disposition, not your position, will make you happy or unhappy.

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