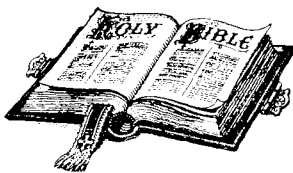


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

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CAN AN ALIEN SINNER "PRAY THRU" TO SALVATION?

Many denominational preachers teach that alien sinners should "come to the altar and pray thru". Many sincere people follow their advice and obviously think they are saved after having "gone to the altar and prayed." But does the Word of God teach this? Human opinion and practice does not determine what is right. God's Word is the standard! Let us consider the following facts:

1. There is NO COMMAND in the New Testament for an alien sinner to "pray thru".

2. There is NO EXAMPLE in the New Testament where an alien sinner ever "prayed thru".

3. There is NO NECESSARY IMPLICATION in the New Testament that an alien sinner can "pray thru to salvation."

4. There is NO evidence in the New Testament that an alien sinner can be saved by "praying thru."

5. The blind man whom Jesus healed 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).

6. The apostle Peter said, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (1 Pet. 3:12).

7. In speaking of God's children, John said, "And whatsoever we ask we receive of Him, Because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His

sight," and "this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us." (1 Jn. 3:22; 5:14).

8. Jesus said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Mt. 7:21). He also said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

9. Ananias said unto Saul of Tarsus, a praying sinner, "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16).

10. In Mk. 16:16 Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned," and in Acts 2:28 Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

CHALLENGE: We sincerely challenge you to find ONE verse of Scripture that teaches that an alien sinner can be saved by "praying thru".

Dear readers, if you think you were saved by "praying thru", you are mistaken! **THE FACT IS THAT YOU ARE STILL LOST IN YOUR SINS!**

(CRS)

PAUL SAID: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

WIVES: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES!

(No. 6)

Negatively, God's Word teaches that **wives should not depart from their husbands**, but if they do depart, **they should remain unmarried or be reconciled to their husbands**. It also teaches that **wives should not be contentious, should not discourage their husbands in that which is right, nor privately agree with their husbands to deceive**. Positively, it teaches that **wives should be helps meet for their husbands, render unto them due benevolence, love them, obey them, be sober, discreet, chaste, reverence them, and be "keepers at home."** Let us further study the responsibility that wives have to be **"keepers at home"** as commanded in Titus 2:5.

WORKING MOTHERS

All mothers should be "Workers" but we have in mind those mothers who work **outside** the home. Many mothers may work outside the home because they think they **really need to and have to**. However, many mothers work outside the home who claim they do so in order to give their children certain advantages such as nicer clothes, a greater choice of foods, more toys, a larger home to live or a later model car in which to ride.

The disadvantages of not having **mother** at home to love, teach, train and discipline them is far greater than the material things she may provide by working outside the home. Please read and consider the following scriptures. Prov. 15:16-"Better is little with the fear of the Lord that great treasure and trouble therewith." Psalms 37:16-"A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." Prov. 16:8-"Better is an handful with quietness than both hands full with travail and vexation of spirit." I Tim. 6:6-8-"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content". Some schools serve breakfast to students because they leave home without any breakfast because their mother works outside the home.

Children of working mothers are sometimes left alone at home and are free to roam the neighborhood at will for 2 or 3 hours after school because no one is at home to take care of them. When they rush home from school, eager for a warm welcome, there is no one there to receive them. When they have joys to share or problems to solve, there is no one at home to assist them. When mother does get home, she is tired and often irritable and the evening meal must be prepared, so the children still do not have her time and attention. Children frequently reflect this neglect in their appearance, their school work and deportment. Small children probably suffer as much or possibly more from working mothers than larger ones. They are left with a babysitter who often either spoils them or neglects them. If the babysitter is ignorant or vulgar, they will pick up and imitate these traits. They are deprived of the affection, instruction and discipline that is so vital during these early formative years. It is sad to see a small child run to its "babysitter" instead of its mother.

WORKING MOTHERS LOSE

Not only do the children suffer, but the working mother herself also loses. Financially, she comes out very little ahead most of the time. There will be more expenses because more clothes, laundry, cleaning, etc. will be needed. Also more expenses because transportation must be provided & a babysitter must be paid. Extra

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WIVES: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

income means more income tax. Add to all of this the amount the mother could save by staying home and making many of the children's clothes as well as her own and preparing the family meals instead of eating snacks most of the time and her financial gain is even less.

Even if the working mother does profit financially, she loses in other more important ways. She may miss the glorious privilege of hearing her baby's first words, or seeing his first steps, or roll his first ball, or stack his first blocks! She may miss kissing away the pain from his hurt finger when he comes crying for mama. She may miss the opportunity to reassure her child as the doctor bandages it broken arm or as the dentist pulls his tooth. She may also miss the satisfaction which comes from doing something special or personal for her family--like baking cookies for the children, or making snow cream or cooking her husband's favorite dishes or mending his trousers. The income from a lifetime of employment can not buy these things.

MAY STIFLE NATURAL AFFECTIONS

Paul describes some as being "without natural affections" in Tim. 3:3 and Rom. 1:31. God made **mother** the queen of the home. Here her finest qualities show forth. **No one can take her place!** When she leaves the home to be jostled by the problems and perplexities of this world--especially those of the secular business world--the finer edge of those inner qualities will be dulled. Working mothers may stifle natural affections.

CAN'T MINISTER TO OTHERS

Women who work outside the home, whether just wives or also mothers, cannot visit the sick and sit up with them and take care of them as much as they should even when there is a definite responsibility. Many times they can not visit those who sorrow and comfort them. Sometimes they cannot get off from work long enough to even attend the funeral of a Christian or the loved one of another Christian. Many times women who work outside the homes cannot fulfil their responsibilities toward others in

(Continued in next column)

"WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE?"

The above question is asked by Peter in view of eternity. (See 2 Pet. 3:10-12). When we consider the context, it should have a sobering effect upon all of us. Let us study the answer to this question.

STEADFAST PERSONS

Steadfastness is necessary to success in any endeavor. A merchant that opens his store every day at a different hour will soon go bankrupt. A fruit tree moved every week from one place to another will never produce fruit. Likewise, the Christian who spends his time jumping in and out, getting hot and getting cold, will never bear fruit or please God. There is no steadfastness!

The Jerusalem church was steadfast. (See Acts 2:42). The apostle Paul was steadfast and he exhorted the Corinthians to be steadfast. (See I Cor. 15:58; 16:13).

PRAYERFUL PERSONS

A preacher, observing a man on the road breaking stones and kneeling to get at his work better, remarked, "Ah, I wish I could break the stony hearts as easily as you are breaking the stones." "Perhaps, Sir, you do not work on your knees", was the reply. Perhaps all of us need to pray more. What a friend we have in prayer! And how little use

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teaching them the word of God--because they do not have the time. (cf. Titus 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:2).

EXCEPTIONS?

Are there exceptions to Paul's command for women to be "**keepers at home?**" I am not sure. There **may** be times when some women are forced by circumstances beyond their control such as death, sickness, or divorce to become wage earners by seeking employment outside the home. A few women **may** be able to hold down a job and still fulfill their duties as wives and mothers. Others **may** find part-time employment which always enables them to be home to greet their children and husband with a pleasant smile and warm meal. But when a wife or mother wilfully and selfishly sets aside her domestic obligations for outside work she certainly violates an express **command of God** and places her soul in jeopardy.

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"WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE?"

we make of it. Prayer is a beautiful and lofty expression of trust, submission and union with God. (See Phil. 4:6; Col 4:2; I Thess. 5:17-18). Christ wants his disciples to be strong in prayer. (See Matt. 6:9-13).

FORGIVING PERSONS

Just as long as man sins, there will be a need to forgive one another. It is commanded. (Eph. 4:32; Col 3:13). It is important that we forgive those who trespass against us. When God forgives, he remembers the sin no more. (Heb. 10:17). Those who say they forgive but cannot forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle sticking out.

SOUL WINNING PERSONS

Christ-likeness demands this of us because Christ came and died for souls. (cf. Luke 19:10; I Cor. 15:3). Winning souls is a mark of wisdom. (Prov. 11:30). The Lord commanded his disciples to be soul winners. (See Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16).

The gospel spread with amazing swiftness in the first century because of the power of personal evangelism. (Acts 8:4; Col 1:23).

COOPERATIVE PERSONS

We should be workers together with God.

THE SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE

There is to be a four-night debate between G.T. Sharp, a United Pentecostal preacher, and Carrol R. Sutton on April 3,4,6 & 7, 1978 on Holy Spirit Baptism. You are invited to attend.

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting to hear from Albert Hill and the West Hobbs St. "elders" as to the date for the Hill-Sutton Debate. We will announce the details as soon as we receive them.

(See 2 Cor. 6:1). The same type of cooperations that exists among the members of the human body should be found in the church. (cf. I Cor. 12:12-27).

EXEMPLARY PERSONS

The Lord expects his people to be examples. He said "**Ye are the light of the world.**" (Mt. 5:14). The Christian life is an effective sermon. (I Pet. 3:1-2). We should all be examples of the believer in the word, manner of life, faith, spirit and love.

Lionel Gary

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Sentence Sermons

Right living is better than high living, and cheaper.

Christ is not properly valued unless he is valued above all.

The recipients of God's grace should be messengers of God's grace.

Many a gossip has opened his mouth and got his foot into it.

The man who drinks a little, drinks too much.

Drinking prevents thinking, and thinking should prevent drinking.

The idle Christian is the raw material of which backsliders are made.

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