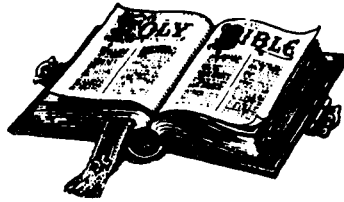


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

SEPTEMBER, 1993

Number 9

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

When Jesus "was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1)

It is obvious from the above passage that disciples of Christ need to be **taught** to pray. All that we know about acceptable prayer is what we learn from a study of the Scriptures. **How** should we pray? Here are some **essentials** for acceptable prayer.

1. **ADDRESS GOD THE FATHER!** In teaching His disciples to pray, Jesus said: "**When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, . . .**" (Luke 11:2; also see Mt. 6:9 which says, "**After this manner therefore pray ye: . . .**"). In His prayer to God in John 17 Jesus addressed Him as "**Father,**" "**Holy Father,**" and "**Righteous Father.**" NOTE: I am **not** suggesting that **only** "**Father**" can be used in addressing God in prayer.

PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST! In John 14:13 Jesus said: "**And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will**

I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (Also see John 16:23-24). We learn from Col. 3:17 that "**whatsoever**" we do **in word** or in deed, is to be done "**in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**" If we do not pray in the name of the Lord Jesus (i.e., by His authority) we have no right to expect God to grant our requests.

3. **PRAY SINCERELY WITH PROPER MOTIVES!** A close, careful study of Matthew 6:5-15 will reveal that our actions (including prayer) **must** be prompted by proper motives. When a person prays to be seen or heard of men, he is praying with **improper** motives.

4. **PRAY WITH HUMILITY!** In Luke 18:9-14 Jesus spoke of two men who prayed but only **one** was justified. His **humility** caused him to be exalted. Pride and arrogance should **not** be in the heart of any Christian. Christians should be humble in spirit and contrite in heart. (See James 4:6; 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-6 & Acts 20:29).

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THE INSTRUCTOR

(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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Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

SOME SURE THINGS

In this life there are many uncertainties. Uncertainties exist in economic, social and political conditions as well as in domestic affairs and financial situations. Uncertainties arise in friendships as well as in one's physical and spiritual well-being. Many variables must be considered in the decisions and choices we make. However, there **are** some things that are **sure**. **There are some absolutes!** Such words as **faithful, steadfast, firm, safe, solid and certain** suggest **surety**. Let us now consider some "**sure**" things.

I. GOD IS SURE ! We learn from Deut. 7:9 "**that the Lord thy god, he is God, the faithful God, . . .**" The apostle Paul informs us that "**God is faithful. . .**" (See 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13 and 1 Thess. 5:24). The "**faithfulness**" of God is taught in such passages as Psalms 36:5; 40:10; 89:1-5; 92:1-2; 119:90 and Lam. 3:23.

We can trust God! We can depend upon Him! He is faithful! He is sure! He is certain! He is steadfast! He does **not** change! (See Mal. 3:6; James 1:17).

II. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS SURE!! Isaiah prophesied of His "**faithfulness**" and New Testament writers declared Him to be "**faithful!**" (See Isaiah 11:1-5; 2 Tim.

2:8-13, 19; Heb. 2:17; Rev. 1:5; 3:14 & 19:11; also cf. 2 Peter 3:8-9).

The Lord Jesus Christ is trustworthy! He is solid! He did **no** sin! He is steadfast! **He is sure!**

III. THE FOUNDATION OF GOD IS SURE! In 2 Tim 2:19 we read: "**Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**" No one can shake the foundation of God! It is secure! It is solid! It is sure! Isaiah prophesied that God would lay in Zion for a foundation "**a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; . . .**" (28:16). Peter affirmed that Jesus Christ fulfilled that prophecy. (See 1 Peter 2:3-8).

To build spiritually upon a solid, a **sure foundation**, one **must** build upon Christ! (See 1 Cor. 3:11; Mt. 7:21-29 and Heb. 13:5-6). Even unbelief cannot crush or destroy the foundation of God!

IV. THE WORD OF THE LORD IS SURE! Read and meditate upon the following words of the Psalmist.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (19:7).

". . .all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness." (111:7-8).

"Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever." (93:5).

In 2 Pet. 1:19 Peter declared: "**We have a more sure word of prophecy: . . .**" (Also see v. 10-21).

Such passages as 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:22-25; 2:12; John 6:63; 12:48; Mt. 4:4; Heb. 4:12; 1 Cor. 4:6; Rom. 10:17; Luke 1:1-4 and 2 John 9-11 prove that **God's Word is sure!** It is dependable!

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SOME SURE THINGS

(Continued from page 2)

V. HOPE IS A SURE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL! Hebrews 6:19 says: **"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, . . ."** Hope is desire plus expectation. Study Rom. 8:24; Titus 1:2 & Eph. 4:4-6.

Riches may enable us to possess things for our use and to help others, but will **not** save us in the last day. The honor of men may encourage us, friends may help and comfort us and pleasures may be enjoyed but none of these things can serve as an anchor of the soul.

A person without hope in this life is like a ship without an anchor in a stormy sea. **Hope is a sure anchor of the soul!**

VI. OUR CALLING AND ELECTION CAN BE SURE! In 2 Peter 1:5-12 Christians are told to add **"these things"** (i.e., virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity). Peter said: **". . . Give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."** (v. 10). Here is the key to spiritual security.

Read and carefully study 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Cor. 10:12-13; Mt. 5:6; John 7:17; 1 John 5:13; 2:3 & 1 Pet. 1:4-5. Also cf. God's providence in His dealing with Job. (See Job 1:1-22; 2:6; 40:3-5; & 42:1-6).

VII. THE REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS SURE! Solomon said: **". . . But to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."** (Prov. 11:18). Consider the words of the Psalmist in the following passages.

"Moreover by them (referring to statues, commandments & judgments — CRS) is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." (19:11).

"So that a man shall say, Verily

there is a reward for the righteous: verily He is a God that judgeth in the earth." (58:11).

The Hebrew writer tells us that God **"is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."** (11:6). In Mt. 10:41 **"a righteous man's reward"** is mentioned. In Mt. 5:10-12 Jesus admonished disciples saying: **". . . Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."**

In Gal. 6:7 Paul declared that **". . . he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."**

Those who forsake all to follow Christ will receive manifold blessings now in this time and in the world to come they will receive **"eternal life."** (See Mark 10:28-30).

NOTE: The wicked will also be rewarded! Isaiah 3:11 says: **"Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him."** Also see Psa. 91:8.

If you are tired of doubts, uncertainties and the attitude that **"Every thing is relative; There are no absolutes,"** put your faith in God and Christ who are sure! **Build upon the sure foundation by believing and obeying the sure Word of God. You can have hope as a sure anchor of the soul by making your calling and election sure! Your reward will be sure!**

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

If the Lord wills, our beloved brother, WINDELL WISER, will be preaching in a series of GOSPEL MEETINGS at EAST ALBERTVILLE beginning **October 3** and continuing through **October 8, 1993.**

We will meet at 7:30 each day Monday through Friday and at 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. We cordially invite and fervently urge YOU to attend!

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY

(Continued from page 1)

5. DO GOD'S WILL! The inspired apostle 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." (1 John 3:22).

6. PRAY WITH A FORGIVING SPIRIT! Jesus said: "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." (Mark 11:25).

7. ASK ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL! 1 John 5:14 says: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us." (Also see Mt. 6:10).

8. DO NOT USE VAIN REPETITIONS! Jesus said: "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." (Mt. 6:7).
NOTE: "Vain" means "empty; devoid of real value; useless; worthless."

9. DO NOT ASK THAT YOU MAY CONSUME IT ON YOUR LUSTS! The purpose for which we ask for something is important. James declared: "Ye ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts." (4:3).

10. PRAY IN FAITH! James said: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." (1:6-7; also see Mt. 21:22).

11. PRAY REGULARLY! Paul exhorted, "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17; also see Rom. 12:12 & Eph. 6:18).

Prayer is a wonderful privilege (and blessing) that God's children have. Let us learn to pray according to the Scriptures.

(CRS)

CORRECTION: In the last INSTRUCTOR in the article entitled "NO APOLOGY IS NEEDED" under point "16." under "NOTE," the statement should read: "As you read these verses please do NOT allow your emotions to override your reasoning."

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Grateful people are happy people! Those who aren't, aren't.

* * * * *

A patronizing disposition always has a meaner side.

* * * * *

That man is the richest whose pleasures are the cheapest.

* * * * *

The great end of life is not knowledge, but action.

* * * * *

You can often tell what makes a person tick by the way they unwind.

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