

Milk & Honey

Vol. XXXIII February 2019 No. 2

Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Heaven's View Of Prayers

Carl Knott

Tennyson wrote, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day." It isn't that prayer is powerful, but God is, and prayer is conversing with the Almighty. Someone said that a believer never comes closer to omnipotence than when he prays. William Cowper said, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

Our prayers seem pretty feeble things, sometimes poorly expressed, other times overly eloquent as if to impress our brethren, and yet, heaven records their importance and powerful impact. I remember a lowly brother who in every prayer meeting asked the Lord for a good snow pack in the mountains and for rain to fill the reservoirs. Some snickered at his prayers, but we all used the water that the Lord sent year by year. Never underestimate the prayers of a saint. "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (Jas. 4:2).

In Daniel 10 we read of Daniel's fasting and prayer for three weeks, after which he was visited by a heavenly messenger. Verse 12 records the angel's words "Fear not, Daniel; for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words." Though he was weak, his prayers were heard and they caused a reaction in heaven. Humble believing prayer moves heaven.

When Zechariah the priest and future father of John the Baptist was in the temple (Luke 1:13) the angel Gabriel appeared to him and said, "Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard." His prayers had reached heaven and sent Gabriel on a special errand.

In Acts 9:11 Ananias is called by God to go to Saul. "And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus; for, behold, he prayeth." Once he saw and believed on the Lord, Saul's spiritual life began with three days of blindness, fasting and prayer (vs. 9-11). His head and heart must have been filled with a thousand questions and uncertainties. His were the infant prayers of a new believer, and yet heaven bent low, listened, and sent Ananias to him. We note in passing that it is important to live in communion with God, so that He can send us to give some help to others.

When the apostle Peter was in prison awaiting execution, we read in Acts 12:5, "but prayer was made without ceasing by the church unto God for him." Many were gathered in a home to pray for him (v. 12). Note that in response to these prayers, the Lord sent an angel to free Peter from prison (vs. 7-10). No one was ever more grateful than Peter that the believers met to pray.

In Revelation 5:8 describes how our prayers are treated in heaven, "...the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints." Our prayers may not seem like much on earth, but in heaven they are treasured.

In Revelation 8:3-4 we see an angel with "a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." There in glory our prayers ascend accompanied by incense from a golden censer. Perhaps these prayers along with those of the martyrs in Revelation 6:9-10 are answered in heaven's reply in Revelation 15, the seven golden vials full of the wrath of God.

A prayer meeting is not attractive to the flesh. Some assemblies have stopped meeting for prayer, and in others prayer meeting is the worst attended meeting of the church. But prayer is important to those who dwell above, for all heaven is moved by believer's prayers. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16).

The apostle Paul thought so much of the prayers of the saints that he wrote: "Brethren, pray for us" (1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1). His words to the Corinthians were, "Ye also helping together by prayer for us" (2 Cor. 1:11). To the Philipians he wrote: "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:19). To Philemon he said: "But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you" (Phlm. 22). No need for long preambles and flowery expressions, just get into the Lord's presence, get to the point and pray. "Lord, save me" (Matt. 14:30) cried Peter as he sank, and the Lord saved him! The power is not in the prayer, but in the Lord. Heaven values our prayers. May we give them greater importance. *

Business Card Gospel Tracts

JUST A SECOND

Seconds fly by without our noticing. However, these seconds eventually add up to a lifetime, and then, in a second, life is over.

When we come into this life we do not know how many of these seconds we will have. Some have a great number, others very few. Some see the end of life coming well in advance, others have no notice and are taken in a second.

Knowing that in any given second you might reach the end of your life, what have you done to prepare for what follows?

Many assume they will go to heaven for one reason or another but what if their assumption is wrong? What a terrible shock that would be!

Side 2

Read the Bible and learn how you can be sure of going to heaven. Start by reading the Gospel of John. Here are a few verses you will find there.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36)

The seconds are passing!

* * *

Spread The Word

P.O. Box 7046, York, PA 17404

SINCERELY WRONG

There are many opportunities in life to be sincerely wrong. For example, a very sincere woman made a mistake while trying to help a critically injured man and he died. She was sincerely wrong.

One of the largest areas in life where people are sincerely wrong is in religion. Many sincerely believe, despite never reading the Bible, that their religion is right and they faithfully practice it. Sadly, they may be sincerely wrong and their effort is in vain.

You need to read the Bible so you can know the truth. It is a unique book. There are 66 books, written over a 1,500 year period, by over 40 different authors from a variety

Side 2

of backgrounds, many of whom did not know each other, and yet it comes together as one continuous story. There is no other book like it. It is supernatural!

It is by reading the Bible that you will find the truth. Christ said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32) He was talking about freedom from religious bondage.

Read the Gospel of John and find the truth that you can be saved from your sins without religion. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Eph. 2:8)

Spread The Word

P.O. Box 7046, York, PA 17404

RELIGION OR CHRIST

Most people think their religion will earn them a place in heaven, but sadly this is far from the truth. Why is this?

First, most blindly follow their religion without ever comparing it to the Bible to see what it has to say. Despite what many think, most religions, even well-known “Christian” religions, do not believe what the Bible teaches.

Second, religion is *our attempt to reach God* by our own efforts—church membership and service, sacraments, living the best we can, etc. Simply put, religion teaches us to earn our way to heaven.

The Bible, on the other hand, teaches us that we cannot earn our

Side 2

way to heaven. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: *Not of works*, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

The good news of the Bible is that *God has reached man* in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is faith in Christ’s death and resurrection that saves us from sin and hell, not religious deeds.

Salvation is a gift of God to those who acknowledge their sin and by faith accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Read the Gospel of John and see salvation is in a Person, not a religion.

Spread The Word

P.O. Box 7046, York, PA 17404

How to get to Heaven without even trying!

Jim knew he had committed a crime when he stole some of his company's money. In the weeks before his trial Jim tried to make amends for his crime by donating time and money to charities in town, and he went to his church regularly. However, when he stood before the judge on the day of his trial the judge took none of these things into consideration. Jim had committed a crime and the law had a prescribed punishment for it. His good works were in vain and of no value before the judge.

Jim is like many people when it comes to going to heaven. They know they have sinned and they try to remove their sins by doing something good. Maybe they too volunteer their time in a worthwhile charity. Maybe they become more religious and do all the sacraments the church requires. But, like Jim, these works will mean nothing when they stand before a holy and righteous God. Like the judge in Jim's case, God does not weigh your good deeds against your sins to determine if you may enter heaven. Your sins must be paid for, and the penalty of sin is death!

Neither will religious works take away your sins. They may make you feel better for awhile or give you hope of going to heaven, but according to the Bible they are useless when it comes to having your sins removed and gaining entrance into heaven.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Neither can you earn grace as some religions falsely teach. Working for grace is contrary to the very definition of the word and contrary to what the Bible teaches.

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace." Romans 11:6

What then can you do to be sure that you are going to heaven? It may surprise you but God has already done all that is necessary for you to obtain forgiveness of your sins and be assured of entering heaven. If you attempt to do any work, religious or otherwise, in order to gain His forgiveness you are saying what God has done isn't enough!

God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, as a perfect sacrifice for your sins. Being sinless Jesus could die in the place of sinners and thus satisfy a righteous God. Jesus did all that is necessary in the eyes of God to allow Him to forgive those who will stop working, and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. Christ's resurrection is proof of God's approval of His sacrifice on the cross. (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Read your Bible to see how you can be saved from God's judgment and assured of going to heaven through faith in Jesus Christ. Start reading in the Gospel of John.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31

Spread The Word
P.O. Box 7046
York, PA 17404

Free Gospel Tract
Write for free copies

Distributing Funds to Workers

While Spread The Spread distributes funds to commended home workers, as of 1/1/19 it will not be sending funds to workers living outside of the United States.

www.FoodForSaints.com

If Only...!

Often hindsight is filled with painful "If onlys." If only Eve had not eaten of the fruit of the tree. If only Joshua had sought the will of the Lord before attacking Ai. If only Saul had done what the Lord directed Him concerning the Amalekites. The list could go on and on.

In our own experience maybe we look back and say the same thing. "If only I had followed my parents advice." "If only I had studied harder." "If only I had thought before I spoke." "If only I knew more about the effects of abortion." "If only I had not watched those immoral soap operas." "If only we had spent more time preparing our children for spiritual success." "If only we invested in eternity more."

Nowhere will "If only" be more painful than in the eternal lake of fire. "If only I had read the Bible." "If only I had believed the Gospel when I heard it."

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives. Let's make the decisions necessary to avoid the painful "If onlys." *

Milk & Honey

A non-profit ministry of
Spread The Word, Inc., 3237 Faire Wynd Pl
Dover, PA 17315

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 333
York, PA

FoodForSaints.com

February 2019

Ministries of Spread The Word

Milk & Honey — a free monthly paper containing a variety of articles on spiritual subjects. Currently approximately 6,000 copies per month including are sent to nearly 30 countries.

Publishing — of Gospel tracts and booklets, Bible teaching booklets and books. Many thousands of tracts and booklets are provided free of charge annually.

Distribution of funds to assembly commended workers laboring in the United States.

Bible Study Program — The program meets the second Saturday of the month (September to April). Lunch is provided.

Shepherding Conference — Direct the Conference annually at Greenwood Hills Bible Conference.

Support of assembly related ministries and commended workers. From time to time, if a clear need is know, STW will support camps, ministries, and workers out of its general funds. In times of damage due to storms we may also minister to assemblies.

Milk & Honey Information

There is no charge for Milk & Honey. It, like all ministries of Spread The Word, is supported entirely by the freewill offerings of the Lord's people. All gifts are tax deductible.

Publisher: **Spread The Word, Inc.**
3237 Faire Wynd Pl, Dover, PA 17315
Fax/Phone (717) 467-5729 phone
Web/Contact www.FoodForSaints.com

The Love of God

Steve Hulshizer

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:10

True love is characterized by self-sacrifice. Nowhere is this more evident than with the love of God. (John 3:16) It is a love which is “uncaused” in the sense that there was nothing in the objects loved that “caused” God to love them. He loved them because He is love and chose to love them.

God's love is “unconditional.” It is not based on the love of the individual towards Him. It is not a reciprocating love. Our love usually is in response to the love of another for us. In the case of God's love He loved despite the absence of our love for Him. His love is not conditioned upon our loving Him.

God's love is “unmerited.” Since God's love is unconditional, there is nothing man can do to earn it. Many would be led to believe if they would straighten out their lives then God would love them. This is erroneous teaching.

To have some appreciation of God's love we must have some understanding of our own sinfulness. Sadly, many, even saints, have little grasp of how sinful unregenerate man is. They focus on the obvious sins of others while failing to see the sinfulness of their own heart. Some too often fail to understand that their flesh is no better today than the day they were saved.

It is those who know their own sinfulness who come to know and appreciate the love of God. (Luke 15:21; Rom. 5:8) Those who sense their unworthiness of God's love, come to know it and now appreciate it. (1 John 4:16) “Keep yourselves in the (enjoyment of) the love of God” Jude 21 *