

Our Prayer List

- ◆ Sarah Adams
- ◆ Dawn Copes
- ◆ Bill Cyrus
- ◆ Dottie Daniels
- ◆ Ann Egan
- ◆ Tom & LaVonne Haines
- ◆ Keith Hodges
- ◆ Beulah Keppler
- ◆ Bob Meiers
- ◆ Gaylin Miller
- ◆ Liz Miller
- ◆ Mike Miller
- ◆ Janice Ortman
- ◆ Hallie & Don Phillips
- ◆ Fay Runyon
- ◆ Mark Young
- ◆ Shirley Young
- ◆ Geco "Hannah's Aunt"

Encouragement

- ◆ Bill Copes
- ◆ Don Craig
- ◆ Bob Whitaker
- ◆ Matt Wood

Order of Service

Morning

Song Leader	David Craig
Prayer	Bob Whitaker
Table	Don Craig
Assist	Charlie Bryson
Assist	Bob Calvert
Assist	Jerry Witt
Lesson	Shawn Daniels
Prayer	Don Phillips

Evening

Song Leader	Doug Cyrus
Prayer	Bob Whitaker
Lesson	David Craig
Prayer	Arnold Miller

From Ogden Biblical Recourses
Thought for the Day, www.aogden.com

The Lord has promised to supply the Christian's needs, but not his greeds.



This Morning Sermon
"God's Standard for Unity—Part 2"

(Eph 4:3-6) "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 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."

(2 Peter 1:20-21) "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Weekly Memory Verse



Guaranteed Growth: Part 2 - Prayer continue from page 1

a tool of growth. You use it to grow and you use it better when you grow.

However, many times we fail to recognize the power that is in prayer. Peter in his first epistle says, "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) If you are a child of God, you have the power of prayer. God's ears are open unto your prayers! He will hear them. Paul says that since we have an intercessor such as Jesus Christ, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:16) This is a great illustration of our ability to go to God in prayer. We can go up to the throne of God. We can lift up our request to the King and boldly, without fear, with all confidence.

Paul tells us that we must pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:17) I can remember when I was a child how I thought it odd that one would be in a bowing position, with hands folded, without stopping. Of course, this is not what Paul meant. He meant that we need to always have a prayerful mind. We need to program ourselves to count on God first and foremost and call on His name first. For example, when this economy started dropping, did you first call your broker, or did you go to God in prayer? If you have ever lost your job, did you start to worry about making ends meet first and foremost, or did you first and foremost go to God in prayer? Prayer is our "help in time of need!" (Heb 4:16)

Not only do we need to have prayerful mind, we need to set aside time every day to go to God in prayer. We can read examples of devout men of God that would go to God in prayer regularly and consistently. David, a man after God's own heart, said, "As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I

pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Ps 55:16-17)

It is said that Daniel "knew that the writing was signed (talking about the decree of the king), he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." (Dan 6:10) Daniel understood the importance of prayer in his life.

Jesus did too. You can read on more than one occasion where He went by himself and found a place of solitude to pray for solace. (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12)

What a great tool God has given us. Let us all grow in our use of it and let us let it help us grow as children of God. Unfortunately, if you are not a child of God, you do not have this tool of prayer. Isaiah tells us that it is not that God can not hear, by physical limitations, the sinner, "but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isa 59:2) Become a Christian today by being obedient to the gospel of Christ and utilize the tool of prayer!

You can read on more than one occasion where He (Jesus) went by himself and found a place of solitude to pray for solace.

ear unto me: therefore will I call upon him so long as I live." Hezekiah, seized with a deadly distemper, prayed earnestly to the Lord, and the Lord said, "I have heard thy prayer, and have seen thy tears, and I have added unto thy days fifteen years." Again, he prayed to be saved from the Assyrian hosts under Sennacherib their king, and in one night the angel of death slew one hundred and eighty-five thousand men! And what shall I more say? The time would fail me to tell of Elijah, who shut and opened heaven by prayer; of Zacharias and Elizabeth, whose prayers obtained another Elijah; of the multitudes of Jews who sought and obtained many cures and blessings from the Messiah; of Cornelius, whose prayer brought an angel from heaven, and Peter from Joppa to communicate to him the word of eternal life; of the prayers of the primitive church, that shook both heaven and earth--that brought Peter out of the inner prison at the hour of midnight, and made the word of the Lord run speedily throughout the earth. All sorts of blessings, temporal, spiritual, and eternal, have been vouchsafed to men and women in answer to prayer.

“...Cornelius, whose prayer brought an angel from heaven, and Peter from Joppa to communicate to him the word of eternal life”

Wherever there is much faith there will be much prayer; and little faith, little prayer. The Lord is very liberal; but he desires for our good that we should ask, seek, and knock, not only once, twice, or three times, but often, very often; for he that thus seeks, finds; and to him who thus knocks, it shall be opened.

Having, then, answered these two important questions--For whom we ought to pray, and for what--we shall notice an objection sometimes offered against the obvious meaning of these words, "Who will have all men to be saved." An objector says, "Is not God omnipotent, and can he not do what he wills? If, then, he wills the salvation of all, must not all be saved? God, indeed, is omnipotent; but wisdom and goodness direct his power. He can only do what his goodness prompts and his wisdom directs. Power, then, only executes what wisdom directs and goodness prompts. Now goodness prompts to save the willing, and not the unwilling; and wisdom guides how this may be done compatibly with the promptings of divine goodness: therefore, God cannot save the unwilling, though he desires not the death of the sinner, but rather that he would turn and live; for, as Peter says, "he desires not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God is, then, omnipotent to save all that come to him by his Son; but he cannot save those who will not have his Son to reign over them.

Brethren, pray for every one you love, and for every thing you [274] lawfully desire. A Christian should not desire any thing for which he ought not to pray; and he ought to pray to the Lord for every thing he rationally desires, even to the minuteness of his daily bread. Be anxious, then, for nothing; but in every thing, by prayer and deprecation, let your requests be made known to God.

AC



SHORT SERMONS ON CHRISTIAN PRACTICE.
SERMONS ON PRAYER--No. II.

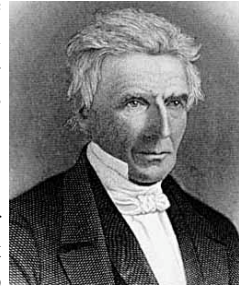
By: Alexander Campbell

WE are not among those who believe that when Paul commanded Christians to "teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," he meant hymns--and hymns--and hymns. Nor can we be persuaded that when he exhorts that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men, he meant only one thing, four times stated. Paul had neither time nor taste for such tautology.

Any address to God expressive of our desires may be generically called prayer. But here are specific duties denominated deprecation, prayer, intercession, and thanksgiving. In this apostolic classification Christians in their prayers are to attend to four distinct items:--They are to deprecate evils; supplicate favors; intercede for persons; and return thanks for benefits received. Yes, they may deprecate all sorts of evils--"Deliver us from evil"--"Abandon us not to temptation:" supplicate all sorts of favors, temporal and spiritual--"Give us this day our daily bread"--"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors:" they are to intercede for all sorts of persons, as did Abraham--"Peradventure there be ten righteous in the city, wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place--the city and its inhabitants--for ten's sake?" "And the Lord said, I will not destroy the city for ten's sake." And said Jesus, "Into whatever house you enter, say, Peace be to this house;" for so prayed he for others--"I pray for all them that shall believe on me through thy word--that they all may be one--that the world may believe that thou hast sent me"--"Forgive them, for they know not what they do," &c. And finally, we are in

every thing to give thanks, and for all sorts of favors conferred on ourselves and others.*

Two questions, my beloved friends, arise here:--For whom and for what are Christians to pray? For method's sake, and for your memory's sake, I will formally ask, and answer these two questions:--



1st. For whom are Christians to pray?

Paul shall answer. He has answered in our text.--"For all men." But says the Universalist, "It is not for the salvation of all men: for all men are decreed to be saved." One, then, may as consistently pray for the sun to rise tomorrow morning, as to pray for the ultimate salvation of all men; because both events are foreordained from all eternity. Again, says the ultra Calvinist, "The Christian cannot pray for all men; for the elect are so definite and so fixed, that their number can neither be increased nor diminished. It is for all sorts of men--for kings, and all in authority," says he, 'and not for all individual men. The praying for sorts of men, rather than men, is a doctrine of the schools, and not of Christ. But can we pray for a sort or class of men without praying for the men that compose it? It is preposterous. Could an Englishman pray for kings and for all in authority in that great empire, without praying for the persons of those kings and public functionaries of authority? It is absurd. To pray for all sorts of men is to pray for all men in all these classes, or it is downright mummery

Continue on page 4

and mockery.'

Paul assigns two reasons for these universal prayers. Perhaps we may learn something from considering them. The reason assigned for praying for kings and officers is, that Christians under their government be allowed to lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. For their own good, then, they are to pray for the governments

under which they live; for this will not only propitiate the governors to their interests, but the Lord sustaining and blessing the governors with prosperity, it will secure like favors to them. Thus preached Jeremiah to the captive Jews--"Seek the good of the city whither the Lord has caused you to be carried away captive: for in the peace thereof shall you have peace." But the second reason rises beyond their own interest: for adds the Apostle, This is moreover "good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved," and to come to an acknowledgment of the gospel, or of the truth. It is, then, in harmony with the divine will. It is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour to pray for all men; and surely this is the best reason in the world that can be given for doing any thing! This point decided, we next ask--

2d. For what are Christians to pray?

We answer first in very general terms:-As we may pray for all persons whom we love, so we may pray for all things that we desire--according to the will of God. Whom may we love? According to the will of God, I ask, whom may we love? I answer, All men, friends and foes. Bless your friends; "bless your enemies;"

Love and desire are...
...the metes and boundaries of prayer

"pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you;" not for that class, but for the very individuals that compose it. Pray for all men. Love and desire are, then, the metes and boundaries of prayer; and this love and desire are only to be limited by the revealed will of God. All persons may be loved--all good things may be desired. For both, then, it is lawful to pray.

But both the power of prayer and the objects and uses of prayer will be better seen and more highly appreciated by an induction of instances from the Bible:-- Abraham prayed for the king of Egypt, and he was cured. He prayed for a son, and Isaac was born. Isaac and Rebecca had no issue; he entreated the Lord, and Jacob and Esau were the answer to his prayer. Jacob prayed for Joseph, and he inherited blessings above the blessings of his progenitors. Jacob wrestled with the Lord and prevailed, and obtained the title "Israel"--a Prince of God. Moses interceded for Aaron, and his life was saved: he lifted up his hands to heaven, and Israel triumphed over Amalek. Hannah prayed for a son, and Samuel was the son that was given. Samuel prayed against the enemies of Israel, and the Lord answered him by thundering upon them from heaven; and again he prayed, and the Lord answered him by thunder for a sign to Israel. How oft did David say, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears"--"In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even. into his ears"--"Thou heardest the voice of my deprecations when I cried to thee"--"I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications; because he has inclined his

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

Announcements

Birthdays this month:

Arnold Miller	13
Sarah Adams	14
AJ Whitaker	22
Pam Baker	24

Anniversaries this month:

There are no anniversaries listed



Church Family News

- Let us remember brother Bob Whitaker in our prayers, while the company that he works for is going through changes, as reported by sister Rene Whitaker. Jobs are stressful and changes in general can be stressful. Put them together and we have the ingredients to a major stressful situation. Let's all remember Bob in our prayers.

Hickory Estates Singing Night will be held on May 28, 2009 at 6:30 pm.



Presented by the church of Christ in Parma, Illinois
Women's Online Bible Study

The Women's Online Bible Study was designed to give women, that perhaps cannot come to a traditional class, a chance to study the Bible with others. If you are interested in signing up or know others in the community or abroad that may be interested, please pass the word of this work.



Anvil Sparks

By: RL Whiteside

In churches, as in nations, peace at any price generally results in war at any cost

READ AND STUDY YOUR BIBLE DAILY!
"Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."
(Prov 9:9)

