

THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

May 2019

No. 401

ALL PRAYERS

Your Father in heaven is a loving Father who wants to hear your prayers. *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us”* (1 Jn. 5:14). There are few limitations on your prayers. One limitation is that you ask according to His will. Asking for your own pleasures is not according to His will. *“Yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts”* (Jas. 4:2b-3).

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There are all kinds of prayer that you can make. The apostle Paul taught Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1-4,

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

There are four types of prayer listed in 1 Timothy 2:1. The first is supplication. This is a humble request, perhaps for mercy or assistance in time of need. It could include confession of your sins and request for forgiveness from God. Remember the story that Jesus told about the two men that went up to the temple to pray in Luke 18:9-14. The tax collector said, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” Such a prayer of confession, repentance, and request for mercy when you have sinned would be a prayer of supplication. It is also a prayer that God wants to hear and has promised to forgive you. “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 Jn. 1:9). But in addition to a prayer requesting forgiveness, a prayer of supplication might be when you are experiencing tribulation and you plead with God for mercy or help in your time of trial.

The second type of prayer is simply “prayers”. These would be requests for obtaining the good things, spiritual and temporal, which you need. In the “Lord’s Prayer”, Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:11-13,

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

These requests are examples of “prayers”. Another example is a request for wisdom. “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask*

of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (Jas. 1:5). There are many requests you can make of God for your spiritual and temporal needs.

The third type of prayer is “intercessions”. These are prayers on behalf of other people. It is common to pray for others that are sick.

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (Jas. 5:14-16)

But “intercessions” should not be limited to sickness. You can pray for those going through tribulations. You can pray for evangelists that proclaim the gospel.

And [praying] for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph. 6:19-20)

You can pray for someone who is lost that their heart might be opened to the truth. There are many intercessions you can make for others.

Finally, there is “giving of thanks”. It is recorded multiple times in the Gospels that Jesus gave thanks for food. Many people want to pray for blessings on the food. The example we have from Jesus is that he gave thanks for the food. But don’t limit your giving of thanks to just food.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57)

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. (2 Cor. 9:15)

God has given you so many physical and spiritual blessings. You should always give thanks and praise God for all that He has done for you.

The apostle Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1 that all these kinds of prayers should be made for all men. Your prayers should not be limited to yourself, to family, and to those in the church. He goes on in verse 2 to give an example of praying for “*kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.*” This extension of prayer to others besides yourself and your friends is made because you should be interested in other people. Paul continues in verses 3 and 4, “*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

Since God wants all men to be saved, you should also want good things to happen to them and that they might be saved.

My encouragement to you is to have a full prayer life.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Eph. 6:18)

You should pray always; in other words, pray on all occasions. You should pray with “all prayer”; this means pray all kinds of prayers as we have just studied (supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks).

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THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God’s harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address, address changes and all correspondence to:

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PHILIPPIANS 3

Part I

We continue our study of Philippians by beginning to look at the third chapter.

Philippians 3:1 - Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

This chapter begins with Paul reminding the people to rejoice in the Lord. Paul says that it is not a bad thing, it is not troublesome, for him to write the same things to them but it is a good thing, the safe thing. The thing that helps keep everyone on the right track. Paul then begins to send warnings. He wants the Philippians to be aware of the people around them, looking out for people with bad intentions.

Philippians 3:2-4 - Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh...

We know that the flesh is temporary.

Genesis 3:19 - ...till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Because of this, we know not to have confidence in the flesh. Paul said that he of all people should have confidence in the flesh. He came from an Abrahamic lineage and he had all that you could wish for as a Jew upon the earth.

Philippians 3:4-6 - ...If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

But then we see that just because you have everything upon the earth, there is a difference between what is good temporarily, and what we need to truly live for Christ.

Philippians 3:7 - But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Paul has lost all that he has, all that was important to him, but he knows that it is so that he can truly follow Christ's teachings. Many of the examples that we are given have a similar story. Think of the poor widow who gave all that she had to the treasury, or the rich man who would not sell all of his stuff. Think of Ananias and Sapphira who lied about the money that they had earned by selling their property. It is not a sin to have possessions, but it is a sin to value them more than you value your relationship with God.

Philippians 3:8-11 - Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

What a powerful lesson. We can have all of the riches, all of the glory and still not have what is truly important. The riches and glory are compared to dung because they are not what we should be striving to attain. It is important that we all reflect on ourselves. Do we worry about what or where we are going to eat? Do we worry about having the latest, greatest technology? Do we worry about making sure that everyone is happy, even if it means they are living with sin? We cannot be so focused on our fleshly body and desires that we forget about what is truly important. In Christ's words:

Matthew 6:25 - Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

If we want to be pleasing to God and if we want to have life beyond this one, we have to keep this in mind in all that we do. Paul continues his thought expressing that he knows he is not perfect, he knows that he has not fully attained what he is striving for, but he keeps working. He keeps pressing toward the mark, not worrying about the past but looking to the future and trying to serve Christ in the best way that he can.

Philippians 3:12-14 - Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

There are a lot of great thoughts in this. Are you worried about what is going on in your life or in the world, or are you focused on serving and pleasing God? We will continue this study next month.

A. D.

INTERESTING CHURCH SIGNS

DEATH TO THE CHRISTIAN IS

A TRANSFER TO THE HOME OFFICE

A HUMBLE PERSON SERVING GOD IS

GREATER THAN A FAMOUS ONE WHO IS NOT

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
May 9 - 12	Rich Hill Casey County, KY	J. D. McDonald, Thad Eubank, Timothy Lewis, & Kenny Spaw
May 10 - 12	Van Lear Van Lear, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Which of Leah's sons brought her mandrakes?
2. How did Rahab let the invading Israelites identify her house?
3. What god did the Philistines offer sacrifices to?
4. Who was the king of Judea at the time of Jesus' birth?
5. What relation was John Mark to Barnabas?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

...and remember last month's questions?

1. In which Jewish month is the Passover?
ABIB (Deu. 16:1)
2. Who did Joseph's brothers sell him to?
ISHMAELITES (Gen. 37:28)
3. What happened to the soldiers of Gideon who lapped the river water with their tongues like dogs, putting their hand to their mouth? **THEY WERE CHOSEN TO FIGHT AGAINST THE MIDIANITES** (Jdg. 7:5-7)
4. In Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount, what was the first of the Beatitudes?
BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Mat. 5:3)
5. What argument prompted Jesus to tell his disciples that they would judge the twelve tribes in the kingdom?
DISPUTING WHO WAS THE GREATEST DISCIPLE (Luke 22:24-30)