

TIME TO QUIT PRAYING 79

TEXT: 1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The title of the lesson might seem strange at first.
- B. After all the text says not to cease praying.
- C. Yet the Bible teaches there are some situations in which people should quit praying.
- D. Let's notice five times that the Bible teaches that one should quit praying.

BODY:

I. THE ALIEN SINNER SHOULD QUIT PRAYING FOR SALVATION.

A. The Bible does not teach that alien (define alien) sinners c/n pray, but that they are not saved by prayer.

- 1. Acts 9:10-11 told him Acts 22:16.
- 2. Acts 10:1-6 told him Acts 11:13-14.

B. The "mourners bench" type of religion is therefore wrong.

C. Rom. 10:13-17- Calling on the name of the Lord is not:

- 1. Believing on Christ- Because a person believes before he "calls."
- 2. Praying to God: because Saul and Cornelius prayed but were not saved by prayer.

D. A person is saved when he obeys the words of the Lord.

- 1. Matt. 7:21.
- 2. Rom. 6:3-5, 17-18.

II. PEOPLE SHOULD QUIT PRAYING FOR THE KINGDOM TO COME.

A. When Jesus gave the model prayer, the kingdom not yet come- Matt. 6:10.

B. The Kingdom was to come during the lifetime of some who heard him speaking- Mk. 9:1.

C. The Kingdom was estab. in the 1st century.

1. Col. 1:13.
2. Rev. 1:9.

III. THE PERSISTENT SINNER SHOULD QUIT PRAYING.

A. The statement in Jn. 9:31 refers to persistent sinners.

1. The Pharisees were not challenging the lineage of Jesus but were saying that He was a rank sinner- Jn. 9:16, 24.

2. The man born blind knew this was inconsistent with God's word.

a. Prov. 28:9. **One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.**

b. Psa. 66:18-19. **If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

B. God today w/n hear the unrepentant child.

1. Heb. 10:26.
2. Heb. 6:4-6.

C. If a child of God is willfully sinning he should quit praying.

IV. THE UNFORGIVING SHOULD STOP PRAYING.

A. Jesus taught that the one who offends and the one who is offended have responsibilities.

1. Matt. 5:23-24.
2. Matt. 6:12-15.
3. Matt. 18:21-35.

B. A member whose heart is filled with hatred and will not forgive his brother just as well quit praying.

V. THE HYPOCRITICAL MEMBER SHOULD QUIT PRAYING.

A. Matt. 6:5-8.

B. Mk. 12:38-40.

C. It is hypocritical to pray as though you are going to do something that you have no intention of doing.

1. "Help us be together at the next time" when one has no intention of coming back that night.

2. "Help us worship in spirit and truth" when has no intention of doing so.

3. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive others" when filled with malice.

VI. NOTICE ACCEPTABLE PRAYER.

A. In faith- Jas. 1:6-8.

B. God's will be done- 1 Jn. 5:14-15.

C. Pray through Jesus.

1. Jn. 14:13.

2. 1 Tim. 2:5.

D. We are to pray for:

1. Rulers- 1 Tim. 2:1,2.

2. Our brethren.

a. Jas. 5:16.

b. Phil. 1:9-11.

c. Acts 12:5.

3. The lost- Rom. 10:1.

4. The sick and material necessities.

a. 3 Jn. 2.

b. Matt. 6:11.

5. Our enemies- Matt. 5:44.

6. Forgiveness- Acts 8:22.

CONCLUSION:

A. Are you on speaking terms with God?

B. Can you address God as your spiritual Father? Gal. 3:26-27.