



To Whom To Pray!



I'd like to clear up some confusion regarding to whom to pray. Some think you can and should pray to God *and* Jesus. Some think you should pray to God, the Holy Ghost, and Jesus, all at the same time. Some are more reserved and choose only Jesus, calling him The Lord God.

When praying, you should always pray to God, never to Jesus Christ. *The Bible never instructs you to pray to Jesus Christ. It only instructs you to pray IN THE NAME of Jesus Christ.* The Super Christian Conqueror must get this right. I have seen many



instances of Christian people praying to Jesus. Perhaps you also have. I have observed and listened to many of these "Jesus prayers" and am reminded of some kind of mantra, or chant. These prayers are generally without power because of a simple truth...God answers our prayers. I have also seen God answer wrongly addressed prayers and I believe that God honors our ignorance. But He expects us to learn His Word and follow It. Just like Jesus Christ, we also pray to God and believe that God answers our prayers.

As head of the Church, Jesus Christ has a multitude of responsibilities, but being prayed to is not one of them. God answers prayer. This is what the scriptures clearly teach.

Acts 2:20-21 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord [God] come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord [Jesus Christ] shall be saved.

Calling on the name of the Lord refers to confessing Jesus as your Lord as taught in Romans 10:9. It does not refer to praying to Jesus. The notable day of the Lord is when God allows many of the

To Whom To Pray!

things in Revelation to come to pass. In order to be saved, you must confess Jesus as your lord.

Acts 4:29-30 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child [servant] Jesus.

What a striking example of prayer to God. The context declares that “Lord” refers to God. The contrast between “God” and “thy holy child [servant] Jesus” is very clear. In this great time of need, the disciples called on God through Jesus Christ.

When you pray to God, you are to use the name of Jesus Christ. Many people don’t for a variety of reasons. It is truly amazing how many organizations there are that do not allow public prayer if it

includes the name of Jesus Christ. I would never want to be in those decision-maker’s shoes when standing before God’s throne! What a shame! These people are in direct contradiction of God’s Word. They don’t believe in Jesus Christ.

John 14:12-14 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask [God] in my name, that will I do, that the Father [God] may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**

We are to ask God for the things we need, and we are to use the name of Jesus Christ. It doesn’t say to ask Jesus in God’s name. It says to ask the Father who is God, in the name of Jesus Christ. For instance, when you pray, you can start the prayer with, “Dear God” or

Dear Heavenly Father.” You then say what you want to say. Then you close the prayer with, “in the name of Jesus Christ or Christ Jesus.” You don’t close it with, “in Jesus’ name.” Any New Testament reference to closing a prayer is almost always with either “Christ Jesus” or “Jesus Christ.”

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: **that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name,** he may give it you.

Once again, Jesus taught his followers to pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ. *If God wanted people to pray to Jesus, wouldn’t this have been a great time to insert that instruction?* Well, God didn’t insert it. So don’t you insert it either.

To Whom To Pray!

In fact, Jesus adamantly taught his disciples to *not* pray to him.

John 16:23-26 And in that day **ye shall ask me nothing.**

Verily, verily, I say unto you,

Whatever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked

nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have

I spoken unto you in proverbs:

but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall show you

plainly of the Father. At that

day ye shall ask in my name:

and I say not unto you, that I

will pray the Father for you:

How clear He made it! *Jesus straightly said, “You shall ask me nothing.” Well then, why are people the world over praying to Jesus?* I

guess they have never read these verses. Our Bible preachers and teachers must use the Bible as their foremost and only authority on all spiritual matters. This is the only way to know the truth.

I marvel at those who try to discuss biblical subjects, yet have never read or studied what the Bible really says about these subjects.

I am more than willing to engage in doctrinal discussions, but I have one criterion that I NEVER bend on. The discussion MUST be based on God’s Word, i.e., it must use Bible verses, and must never be based on experience, tradition, hearsay or emotion.

Ephesians 5:19-20 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; **Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name**

of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The book of Ephesians teaches us clearly on this matter. When you pray, you give thanks always for all things. It means that you pray with thankfulness in all things. You thank God for taking care of your needs, whatever they are. And when you are giving thanks, you give thanks unto God the Father in the name of our lord Jesus Christ. Once again, how clearly stated it is.

Isn’t it amazing that the book of Colossians doesn’t change this doctrine one iota.

Colossians 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

And. . . .

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus

To Whom To Pray!

[Christ], giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

For some reason, the translators decided to take out the word “Christ” in verse 17. It is in the text, so it should also be in the King James Version. If you have access to the Douay-Rheims Bible, you’ll see that “Christ” is included.

Colossians 3:17 All whatsoever you do in word or in work, do all in the name of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. [Douay-Rheims]

Let’s get very serious about to whom we pray. If you are going to pray God’s way, you must follow His rules. Can you say your prayers to Jesus? Sure. You can say them to anyone you’d like. That’s your choice. If you don’t follow God’s plan, is God forgiving? Yes. *But are you intelligent enough to*

read what is written and then follow those words? That is the real question that should be asked. You can’t make up the rules. Only God can. If you want to make up different rules, ones that aren’t substantiated in God’s Word, what are you going to say to God when you give an account of yourself to Him one day?

Matthew 12:35-37 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

I can see it now. God says, “son, why did you pray to my son Jesus? After all, I went to great lengths to

teach you not to. Why?” What is your response going to be? “Uhh, well, I know the Bible. In there somewhere, it said it was okay. Didn’t the Apostles pray to Jesus?”

God—“sorryson, that’s not good enough, and that’s exactly why I couldn’t answer so many of your prayers.

I really wanted to take care of you, but you wouldn’t let me.”

Romans 14:11-12 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

I simply can’t wait for this day to come. I am not right on every point, and I know I can’t be until I have a perfect mind in eternity. I know I make mistakes, and I know that we are using a less-than-accurate Bible as compared to what

To Whom To Pray!

the first century Christians had access to. But I also know I work the Bible that I do have to make sure I can be as right as possible on as many things as I can. I really don't like hearing people pray to Jesus. It makes me cringe. Why? Because it's man-made religion in practice, and that's something I detest. I cringe also because I have NEVER found one single Bible verse to support such a strange doctrine. Sure, I have made plenty of enemies on this one. In fact, sadly, I've made plenty of enemies on many biblical points. ***But, as long as I can't find supporting biblical documentation on any given issue, I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE to practice said issue.*** What about you? Are you willing to stand on the Words that God made sure you could have today? Or are you too concerned with what others will think and feel about you if you did

stand for God? This brings us to an interesting crossroads, doesn't it? And it should if you aren't clear on what the Bible says about prayer. If you really feel strongly about praying to Jesus, go ahead, but remember that you won't find one Bible verse that tells you to do so. All verses related to the subject of to whom to pray say to pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

As you become familiar with to whom to pray, you can apply that knowledge to your prayer life. You should only pray to God, not Jesus, always. You can't switch it just because you want the Bible to support your religion. When you pray, pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ!

God bless you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ!

Jerry D. Brown