

*But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'*

**Luke 18:13**

## A Word About Prayer

**Jeff Henderson**

### Store In My Heart

#### 2Corinthians 5:11

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

About a year after the earlier letter Paul again wrote to the brethren in Corinth. He was now in Macedonia and would visit them before long. This letter points out some things that need to be corrected still among these brethren. Unity in the spread of the Gospel and the need to be holy in all of life take up a large portion of this writing. Instructions about giving and Paul's defense of his ministry are also included.

The problems at Corinth stemmed from their focus on self rather than Christ and one another. This is a continual problem among the people of God. We must willingly give up self or we will never grow in our service to God. We must think less of self, more of Him.

With all of the modern means of communication that are available to us today, there is little excuse for not staying in touch with friends and relatives. Many young people have made use of networking websites and information sharing blogs. Yet, this instant means of communication is nothing new for mankind. God has been receiving updates and requests for several thousand years. Prayer has been a part of the righteous' means of communication since Old Testament times.

The Bible tells us not only what prayer is but also its importance to both us and to God. We quickly learn from the example of prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples that our prayers are directed to God the Father. The fact that Jesus begins his words with the expression "Our Father who is in Heaven," should not surprise us. We often do the same. Take for example how letters are written. We begin by stating who we are addressing. With the example of Jesus we understand the need and the appropriateness of giving God praise and adoration. "Hallowed be thy name." We rightly express through the words that we speak the honor and the glory that is given to the creator and sustainer of life on earth. With our lips we extol the name of God, Jehovah, the Almighty, etc. In our prayers we, like Jesus, indicate recognition of the relationship that exists with his children by calling him Father. The words we speak are of grave importance as we talk and communicate with God through the avenue of prayer as directed in the Bible.

There is however another side of the equation that needs to be considered and that is our actions. We need to be just as aware of our actions connected with prayer as we are with the words from our heart. The Bible mentions various position taken during a time of praying such as kneeling in prayer (Luke 22:41-42), bowing our heads (Exodus 4:31), and of standing (Luke 18:13). These are outward displays of reverence, honor, and respect toward God. To help understand what I have in mind, think about what is done when the flag is raised and we hear the national anthem. Hats are removed, hands are placed over hearts, and our mind fills with thoughts of the



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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been feeling better this past week.

Vickie McNees is still dealing with pain caused by her recent fall. Her doctor wants her to continue with what she has been doing.

Clifton Hurst's mother, Martha, passed away on Saturday. He and Gloria are in Fordyce.

The Simpson Family is out of town this weekend.

**Pray for safety, courage & healing.**

sacrifice that others made. Isn't it safe to say that thoughts of recipes, schoolwork, future television shows and such are not in the forefront of our feelings? We turn our head in the direction of the flag. We think about the words of the song often times singing the words as they are played or preformed. If we can give such honor and respect to our national anthem, should it be any less so when speaking to God the creator and Savior of mankind?

# No Occasion For The Enemy

## Gilbert Alexander

Christians are taught to live discreetly in purity and holiness so as not to give adversaries occasion to speak reproachfully against the cause of Christ (1Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:5,8; 1Peter 2:11-12; 1Timothy 6:1). Yet, too often, the ill-will that the world of unbelief holds against Christianity is based upon wrongdoing by nominal Christians defended at times by religious organizations and people in high places. The great King David gave great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme when he sinned in the matter of Bathsheba (2Samuel 12:14). The Apostle Peter was blameworthy for behaving hypocritically and influencing others to hold racial prejudice (Galatians 2:11-16). It is easy for us to become careless or hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13). For this reason we are exhorted over and over to be holy, pure, above reproach, a good example always, proclaiming the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1Peter 2:9).

Much of the world today equates Christianity with Roman Catholicism. People consider Christianity as the source of religious persecution, of the Crusades, of religious corruption and perversion shielded by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church. How sad it is to see the Christ, His Word, and His church evil-spoken-of and even ridiculed because of the behavior of disobedient people who call themselves followers of Christ! What a hindrance to true evangelism and the growth of the true kingdom of God it is, that the true church of the Lord is unknown to so many who think of themselves as full of knowledge of God and religion.

True Christians are described in the New Testament as the sheep of the true Shepherd (John 10:7-18), holy and harmless -- harmless as doves (Philippians 2:15; Matthew 10:16), the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13), doing good and loving even their enemies (Galatians 6:10; Matthew 5:44-45), seeking God and eternal life above all things (Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 6:33). Are there such people on the earth? Assuredly there are, and Jesus exhorts them to let their light shine, to be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, living as sanctified people should. May their number be multiplied.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!