Prayers Never Prayed

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 1st, 2019

Text: Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 11:6; John 14:15

### Intro

1. There exists a tension between grace, faith, & works.
   1. Ephesians 2:8-9: All men are saved by grace! (Titus 2:11)
   2. Hebrews 11:6: Without faith it is impossible to please God! All men must have faith to be saved!
   3. John 14:15: Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.” All men must obey the gospel to be saved (Heb. 5:9: Jesus saves those who are obedient to Him)
2. This tension has resulted in error involving opposite extremes.
   1. There are those who teach grace alone saves, and others who teach faith alone saves.
   2. The Scriptures teach all of them in concert: the grace of God appeared to all men bringing salvation (Titus 2:11), and our faith in God is manifested in our obedience, which is our works (Titus 2:12-14; James 2:17, 24, 26).
3. This can be demonstrated in six prayers never prayed in the Scriptures!

#### The Shipbuilder’s Prayer

* 1. Genesis 6
  2. Noah found grace, yet he was commanded to build an ark.
  3. What if Noah had prayed the “shipbuilder’s prayer” & refused to build the ark?
     1. What if he said he didn’t want anyone to think by him building a boat that he earned salvation through works so he just prayed for salvation, calling upon God’s grace (Genesis 6:8)?
  4. Genesis 6:22: Noah did all that God commanded him to do!

#### The Firstborn Prayer

* 1. Exodus 12
  2. The Israelites were the objects of God’s grace, yet he commanded them to kill a lamb and put it’s blood on the doorpost to not have their firstborn killed.
  3. What if Moses had told the people to simply pray the “firstborn prayer” and refuse to kill a lamb and apply the blood to the doorpost?
     1. What if they said they were afraid the Egyptians would say their applying the blood to the doorpost was works and not grace since they earned it so they would just pray for salvation of their firstborn to display their great faith?
  4. Exodus 12:28: The sons of Israel did all that God commanded them to do!

#### The Red Sea Prayer

* 1. Exodus 14
  2. God was showing his favor upon Israel as they exited Egyptian bondage.
  3. Once trapped, the Red Sea before them, the Egyptian army barreling down on them from behind, and craggy mountains on their sides, God commanded them to move forward.
  4. What if Moses had refused to lead the people through the Red Sea, and instead pray the “Red Sea Prayer?”
     1. What if they were afraid the Egyptians would say walking across to the other side was a lack of faith and it could be said they earned God’s grace through works so they would just pray for deliverance?
  5. Exodus 14:28-31: The Israelites did as God commanded and were saved, and the Egyptian army all drowned!

#### The Harlot’s Prayer

* 1. Joshua 2:12-21
  2. Rahab had shown kindness to the spies, and thus was promised mercy.
  3. The condition was that she stay in the house and put a scarlet cord in the window.
  4. What if Rahab, instead of putting a cord in the window prayed the “Harlot’s Prayer?”
     1. What if Rahab, not wanting to be accused of works that earned her God’s grace, didn’t put out the scarlet cord and just prayed for salvation?
  5. Joshua 2:21; 6:22-25: Rahab tied the scarlet cord in the window and was saved with her family! *(James 2:25-26)*

#### The Leper’s Prayer

* 1. II Kings 5
  2. Naaman was shown grace and was told to dip seven times in the Jordan river.
  3. What if Naaman had, instead of dipping in the Jordan, prayed the “Leper’s Prayer?”
     1. What if Naaman was worried people might think the Jordan’s water was magical or they thought by him dipping in it he somehow earned God’s grace by works so he, instead of dipping, prayed for cleansing and healing?
  4. II Kings 5:14: Naaman obeyed God and was made whole again!

#### The Sinner’s Prayer

* 1. Acts 2:38
  2. God showed grace to sinners and commanded them to repent and be baptized.
  3. What if men, instead of repenting and being baptized, decided to simply pray the “Sinner’s Prayer?”
     1. Sadly, this prayer is being taught and said across the world!
     2. They acknowledge they are sinners, they ask Jesus into their hearts, and not wanting to give the appearance that there is any magical property of the water and that they didn’t earn their salvation, they pray to be saved!
  4. Acts 2:41: The Jews on Pentecost heard the word of God, obeyed it by being baptized and were added to the church!

## Conclusion

1. In every above scenario someone was a recipient of God’s grace and had conditions for it:
   1. Noah had to build an ark
   2. The Israelites had to sprinkle the blood of the lamb on their doorposts
   3. The Israelites had to walk across the Red Sea
   4. Rahab had to tie a scarlet cord in her window
   5. Naaman had to dip seven times in the Jordan River
   6. The Jews on Pentecost had to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus to be forgiven
2. Prayer is not a substitution for obedience!
3. Prayer will not save us: Obedience to God’s word will!
   1. Nowhere in the Scriptures, when one asked what they needed to do to be saved, was the answer given to pray for salvation!
4. Grace, Faith, & Works all have an essential role in our salvation.
5. God has grace “covered.”
6. What remains is whether we will exhibit a faith that obeys! *(James 2:14-26)*
7. We are all saved the same way: Obedience to the gospel – Mark 16:16: Believe and be baptized to be saved!
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
9. If a Christian in error, remember your 1st love. Repent & pray for forgiveness!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!