

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Prayer & Salvation

(Acts 8:22)

- Introduction:
1. Prayer is definitely connected to salvation in Scripture, but people have misapplied what the Scriptures teach on this topic.
 2. Some say you must “pray through” at the mourner’s bench. This process requires time and pleading with God and when you get an “inner feeling,” you’ve been saved.
 3. Some say we just say “the Sinner’s Prayer.”
 - a. If there is a prayer that we are to say to be saved, wouldn’t you expect it to be mentioned in the Bible?
 - b. David Platt – “I’m convinced many people in our churches are just simply missing the life of Christ. And a lot of it has to do with what we’ve sold them as the gospel. I.E. Pray this prayer, accept Jesus into your heart, invite Christ into your life. Should it not concern us that there is no such superstitious prayer in the New Testament? Should it not concern us that the Bible never uses the phrases, ‘accept Jesus into your heart’ or ‘invite Christ into your life?’ ... It’s a very dangerous thing to lead people to think they are Christians when they have not biblically responded to the gospel.” ...It’s not just dangerous, it’s damning to the crowds.”
 4. Let’s examine the Bible and see what it says about the place of prayer in salvation

I. God’s Two Laws of Pardon

- A. Ills. of Driver’s license.
 1. First time applicants must take a driving test as well as a written test.
 2. Renewals don’t require a driving test, and some don’t require a written test, just an application.
- B. Likewise, there are two “laws of Pardon” in the Christian system.
 1. There is a law for those who are not Christians for becoming a Christian.
 2. There is a law for Christians to be renew their relationship to Jesus.

II. God’s First Law of Pardon

- A. (Acts 2).
- B. This is the first gospel sermon.
- C. Notice how Peter convicts them of sin and causes them to ask, “What must we do?” (Acts 2:36-37).
- D. Peter’s response is recorded in Acts 2:38.
- E. Noticed how those who gladly received his words responded, and what it did for them (Acts 2:41).

III. God's Second Law of Pardon

- A. But what if a Christian sins after becoming a Christian?
- B. Must he be baptized all over again?
- C. We have just such a passage in Scripture to answer this question.
- D. (Acts 8:1-25).
- E. Note what Simon, a fallen-away Christian was told to do (Acts 8:22).

IV. An Application from God's Two Laws of Pardon

- A. We all agree that it is ineffective for an alien sinner to pray for salvation.
- B. Be are we all agreed that it is just as ineffective for a Christian who sins to be baptized again?
- C. There are times when a person needs to be "rebaptized."
- D. However, being rebaptized simply because you learned more, wanted a fresh start, rid yourself of regret for sin is wholly ineffective and thus inappropriate.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Prayer certainly plays a role in our salvation.
 - 2. But keep it in the role that God gave it.