



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 13, 2016

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Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE

Perhaps the Bible's greatest enemy is preaching; preaching that makes the Bible appear to be a book of conflicting, contradictory doctrines. Robert Owen, the notorious atheist said in controversy with Alexander Campbell that the reason he was an atheist was because he had read so many conflicting doctrines all of which claimed the Bible as their source, so he decided the Bible was no good.

Jesus prayed that all His disciples would be one as He and the Father are one so the world would believe that God sent Him into the world. Adding human creeds and doctrines to the Bible is fatal; not only fatal to those who do the adding, but fatal to those deceived by such false teachings. The Bible does not teach many of the doctrines which men say it teaches. Jesus prayed that all His disciples be one through the word of the inspired apostles (**John 17:20**). But the word of the apostles is God's word (**John 17:8, 14**). Therefore, those who reject the word of the apostles reject God's word.

One reason there are atheists, infidels and skeptics is because multitudes of preachers have left the impression that God's word contains all the conflicting doctrines taught in the religious world. But God's word does not contradict itself; God's word teaches just the truth on any subject. If it is not handled aright it may be wrested into meaning that which it does not actually say.

We in the church of Christ are pleading for people to exile, burn, bury, destroy the human doctrines that divide men, and which the Bible does not teach so that people will respect the Bible for what it is. It is a book of harmonious truth and contains the soul-saving gospel which if obeyed by all, nothing more, nothing less, will bring about the oneness Jesus prayed for, and will cause the world to realize that God sent Jesus to save sinners.

Basil Overton

PRAYER HELPS

The inspired apostle Paul affirmed that prayer helps. In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul described how there had been a time, in Asia, when he was in danger and facing the possibility of death (**II Corinthians 1:8**). However, Paul was delivered from death by God and also by the prayers of the brethren in Corinth. Notice **II Corinthians 8:11**: *“Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.”* Observe from this verse that the Corinthians had been *“helping...by prayer.”* Paul was delivered from trouble, at least in part, because of the prayers of the Corinthians. Prayer helps!

It is true that prayer helps the righteous, those who are following the Lord’s will: *“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil”* (**I Peter 3:12**). God hears and answers prayers. Prayer helps!

The following are some specific ways in which prayer helps:

Prayer helps in times of danger and trouble. In the context of **II Corinthians 1**, Paul was facing danger and trouble, but prayer helped. Prayer still helps today. It is appropriate, therefore, to pray for the safety of missionaries who travel abroad preaching the Word, for families traveling on summer vacation, for military men and women who are fighting for our freedom. Prayer helped to deliver Paul from danger and it will still help today.

Prayer helps in temptation. Jesus told His disciples to “pray” that they enter not into temptation (**Luke 22:40, 46**). James admonished: *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you”* (**James 4:7-8**). When a child of God is battling temptation, if he will draw nigh to God in prayer and ask for strength to overcome, God will provide a way to escape each temptation (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

Prayer helps with anxiety and worry. Scripture says, *“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (**Philippians 4:6-7**). This text instructs Christians to worry about nothing and to pray about everything. God’s people often forfeit peace which passes understanding, all because we do not cast our cares upon Him (**I Peter 5:7**).

Prayer helps. The key is that Christians must *“ask in faith”* (**James 1:5-7**). If one prays, doubting that God will hear and answer, there is no reason to pray. In light of these verses, let us all realize that prayer truly helps! *“Pray without ceasing”* (**I Thessalonians 5:17**).

Mark Lindley