

# ***Teaching Sound Doctrine Lessons on Clearing The Confusion***

## ***Lord Teach Us***

Back in 1958 a brother by the name of Bill Echols from Goliad, Texas wrote a couple of articles dealing with prayer using Luke 11:1 as his starting point. I have had these articles on my computer for many years now and I thought it would be a good idea to use them for this class. Not only is the teaching sound I do not think I could teach it much better than he has. I have taken the liberty of rephrasing some parts Bills work and ad my own comments also. So with that said lets get started.

"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." Luke 11:1.

We find in this request of the disciple two confessions which if made by men today would lead to a greater effort and better understanding on our part to be what God desires. The first confession is the disciple acknowledged Jesus as one of power and authority when he addressed Him as Lord. It is not until we recognize Jesus as having all authority, *Mat 28:18 And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.* , and as being head of the church, *Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.* ; and as having a name above every name, *Php 2:9 Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name;* till then we will never see our need for his teaching or the necessity of obedience to his will.

The second acknowledgment by the disciple was of his need for instruction. He realized his need for teaching on the subject of prayer and as Christ is Lord, where could he receive better instruction? No man is to be pitied more than the man who recognizes no need for teaching. How many Christians are failing in their life because they fail to recognize their need *"to study to show thyself approved unto God."* *2Ti 2:15*

Many of God's people today need to say, "Lord, teach us to pray." There are many to whom James says, *"Ye ask, and receive not because YE ASK AMISS,*

*that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3.* Many who have been baptized into Christ have had prayers unanswered because they have not learned God's requirements for acceptable prayer. John states, *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, he heareth us." I John 5:14.* Surely we ought to say, "Lord, teach us to pray."

There is much more New Testament teaching on the subject of prayer to look at and to help us understand what God desires of us. First of all we must ask in faith. *James 1:6, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."* See also Mark 11:24. Our prayer should be directed to the Father in heaven. *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray TO THY FATHER which is in secret; . . ." Matt. 6:6.* Prayers should not be addressed to saints or angels nor filled with repeated vain expressions which have been put to memory. *Matt. 6:7.* Remember what John said *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:22.*

Acceptable prayer must be coupled with obedience upon the part of the one who prays. In John 15:7, Our Lord said, *"if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."* No one abides in Christ who, does not obey his teaching. *I John 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. ; 2 John 9 tells us Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

*"And whatsoever ye shall ask IN MY NAME, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13, 14.* To ask in the name of Christ means we must ask by his authority or as he has authorized us to pray. The New Testament teaches there are some things for which we should not pray. - *Jas 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts;* also we can read *1Jn 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.* No request which is contrary to his divine revelation will be heard. We have already observed from I John 5 :14 that prayer must be according to His will. In addition, our attitude in praying will determine whether or not the prayer will be heard. We must approach God's throne of grace with a spirit of humility. *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6.* We must likewise pray with a forgiving spirit toward those who have sinned against us. *"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive*

*your trespasses." Matt. 6:15.*

Although only one disciple is mentioned making the request, he spoke of the need of all by saying teach US to pray." Likewise, many of us need to be taught the word of God in regard to prayer. If we are to follow the example of our Lord who prayed oft, *Mat 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. ; Mat 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. ,* and if we are to obey Paul's admonition to "Pray without ceasing," I Thess. 5:17, we must learn and practice these things of God.

No better attitude can fill the child of God (or any one for that matter) than that expressed by the psalmist in Psalm 119:12 when he said, *"Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes."* We need desperately to know the word of the Lord which is *"able to make thee wise unto salvation."* 2 Tim. 3:15. We must remember the commandment of the Lord is *"study to show thyself approved unto God."* 2 Tim. 2:15.

During the time that Christ was on the earth, the Jews had lost sight of their need for God's word and had substituted for it their traditions. In Matt. 15 :3 the Lord asked them, *"Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your traditions?"* By forsaking the Scriptures for their traditions and the commandments of men, they had made their worship vain. *Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.* So it was that the Lord told them on another occasion, *Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

Since God teaches us through His word we ought to make it our constant companion. If our attitude is like that of the psalmist, we will daily study God's revealed will. We have the example of the noble Bereans who *"received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures DAILY, whether those things were so."* Acts 17:11. The question facing us is, Do we really want to be taught the statutes of the Lord ? When we do not avail ourselves of the opportunity to study the Word in the Bible classes provided by the elders of the church, are we not in reality saying, "Lord, do NOT teach me thy standards"? When we hear preaching that condemns or is contrary to what we have believed or practiced for years and we refuse to study to see if our ideas are correct, are we not saying, "Lord, do NOT teach me thy statutes"?

Again from the Psalms we get a passage to which we should give careful

consideration. *"Teach me thy way, O Lord." Psalm 27:11.* This is the cure for the world. Let all seek the Lord's way and peace will come to the world. Let all seek His way and strife and division will cease in the Lord's body. When we fully realize that *"it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps," Jer. 10:23,* and that God's ways and thoughts are not our ways, Isa. 55:8, 9, we will seek and strive to enter in the strait gate. Let us remember that Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

Some will say that every one should be free to choose his own way. The Bible is replete with examples which show vividly that God does not allow us to follow the path we choose. The example of *Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10* should forever show the futility of walking in any path other than the Lord's way.

If we do not follow God's way, heaven will not be our home. We cannot change God's law. When God teaches us that the alien sinner must believe, Jn. 3:16; repent, Lu. 13:3; confess, Matt. 10:32; and be baptized, Acts 2:38 in order to have the remission of his sins, He means what He says. We should accept this as His way and walk therein. When He teaches the baptized that they should *"live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world," Titus 2:12* and *"to abstain from all appearance of evil," I Thess. 5:22,* again He means what He says.

Instead of trying to figure out a way to circumvent His plain teaching let us say sincerely, *"Teach me thy way, O Lord."* Someday our life on this earth will end and we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Where we spend eternity will be determined by the way in which we walk in this life. If we walk in the broad way, destruction; but if we walk in His narrow way, eternal life. *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" Psalm 90:12.*

Let us not wait for a convenient season to begin walking in the Lord's way, for such a time will never come. Let us lay aside the frail, timeworn excuses and accept His way. Let us pray and always ask *"Teach me thy way, O Lord."*