

[jfmiller61@gmail.com](mailto:jfmiller61@gmail.com)

<http://jfmiller.com/onlineclass/>

# **Teaching Sound Doctrine**

“GOD HEARETH NOT SINNERS” Pt. 4

## OTHER TEACHINGS

The apostles asked Jesus to teach them to pray. “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). Jesus then gives the model prayer (what others have erroneously called the Lord’s prayer). Our Lord begins that model prayer with these words: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name” (Mat. 6:9; Luke 11:2). He taught that we are to address our prayers to the Father who is in heaven. Who has God as a Father? Only a child of God! Those who are not children of God have Satan as their father. Christ stated to the Jews of His day: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). A person who is outside of Christ does not have the right to call upon the Father in heaven because He is not his father. Only a child of God can pray to the Father in heaven.

Paul teaches that all spiritual blessings are in Christ: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). In heavenly places has reference to the church. Thus, all spiritual blessings are in Christ in the church. The same act that places one in Christ places one in the church. There are only two passages which teach how we get into Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27): both state we are baptized into Christ. Yet, when one is baptized, God places him in the church (Acts 2:41, 47). Thus when one gets into Christ, he is in the church. The question we are now concerned with is: Is prayer a physical or spiritual blessing? While there might be some physical blessings and result associated with prayer, it is primarily a spiritual blessing. Thus, if we have the right to take prayer out of the church and out of being in Christ, then we have the right to take any spiritual blessing out of Christ and the church. Prayer is for those who have qualified themselves by becoming a Christian (one who is in the church of Christ). Those outside of Christ (who are not members of the church of Christ) have no right of prayer.

Peter discusses the husband wife relationship in 1 Peter 3. Specifically he deals with wives who are married to an unbelieving husband and how the wife should act toward him. He then turns his attention to the husbands and directs them how to live with their wives. He says, “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered” (1 Pet. 3:7). How and why could their prayers be hindered? They will be hindered when the husband and wife both are not “heirs together of the grace of life,” or when both are not Christians. Why are they hindered then? Because when the one who is a non-Christian prays, his prayers are not heard by God.

### EXCLUSION PRINCIPLE

While the exclusion principle is often misused, there is a proper use of this principle. God authorizes by what He says, not by what He does not say. We only have the right to do that which God authorizes (Mat. 21:23-27; Col. 3:17) through the Scriptures. The Scriptures authorize by (1) direct statements, (2) implications, (3) examples. When there is no authorization for it, then we cannot do it. The Hebrews writer uses this principle to show that Jesus is greater than the angels. “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?...But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?” (Heb. 1:5, 13). Since God never said this to any angel, it shows Christ’s superiority over them. Since God does apply it to Jesus and never applies it to angels it excludes angels.

When we consider the law of exclusion in connection with prayer, every statement, implication, and example concerning prayer in the Bible, Old and New Testament, is applied to the child of God. There is simply no passage that applies the privilege or blessing of prayer to anyone other than a child of God. To take prayer and apply it to anyone other than whom God applies it to is wrong. We simply have no right to apply it to anyone but a child of God.

### OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

#### I Know I have Been Heard

There are some who will proudly boast that they know that their prayers have been heard. This relies solely upon ones feelings. This is like the person who says: “I know I am saved.” How do they know? Because they feel it in their heart. However, as we all know, feelings are not a safe guide in religion or anything else in life.

Joseph’s brothers took his coat of many colors and dipped it in blood. They brought the coat to Jacob; Jacob felt that his son had been killed and said he would go to his grave morning for his son. However, as we all know, Jacob’s

feelings were not reliable; Joseph was not dead. Saul (the apostle Paul) had done many things contrary to the name of Christ. “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities” (Acts 26:9-11). Yet, in spite of all the evil Saul had done as he stood before the council he would say, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day” (Acts 23:1). Paul had done many things contrary to the cause of Christ, but he did it with a good conscience. His conscience (feelings) was not a safe guide, just like our feelings are not a safe guide.

The fact that God has been good to one who is not a Christian and certain events have transpired in their life that have brought blessings to them rather than the continuation of evil and maybe they have prayed about it does not mean that God heard or answered those prayers. Consider the words of Jesus: “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Mat. 5:45). All men drink in God’s physical blessings, not just Christians. Simply because a person enjoys God’s physical blessings does not mean that God approves or accepts them, or hears their prayers.