

Love Letter

"Jesus Wrote In The Sand"

Weekly Newsletter Published and Distributed By the Agape Church of Christ
Agape Church of Christ / Adorn Hall 4165 FM 521 Rd, Fresno, TX 77545

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AGAPE
CHURCH OF CHRIST



From The Pen Of A Free Man

"Praying Acceptably"

Bro. G. A. Freeman

Prayer is a vital part of our spiritual life. It should be as natural as the urge to breathe, but its use is often neglected. God wants his children to talk to him in prayer. There are at least 650 definite prayers in the Bible. 450 of these have recorded answers. We can rest assured that God answers prayer.

What Should Our Prayers Express?

- 1) Praise (Ex. 15).
- 2) Help in time of peril (Ex. 17).
- 3) Our needs (Ex. 22:22-24).
- 4) Mercy (Ex. 32).
- 5) Intercession on behalf of others (Ex. 32:7-14).

What About Our Attitudes In Prayer?

An unforgiving spirit can erase the power of prayer (Mt. 6:14-15). Though not commanded as essential, fasting is often associated with prayer (Psa. 35:13; Dan. 9:3; Mt. 9:15; Acts 10:30; 13:3; 14:23; I Cor. 7:5). Jesus told us to be persistent in prayer (Lk. 11:5-10). The same thought is in the parable of the unjust judge (Lk. 18:1-8). Perseverance in prayer is also needed (Eph. 6:18). We must pray on and on, wrestling like Jacob, panting like David, hoping like Elijah, persistent like Bartemaueus, crying with tears like Jesus.

How Should We Pray?

The entire godhead is involved in our prayers. Our petitions are to the Father (Mt. 6:9), through the name of Christ, who is our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15), and with the help of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26). Just as baptism is in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so expressing in Jesus' name would indicate unity of godhead (Mt. 28:19; Acts 4:12; 22:16 cf. 2:21; 1 Cor. 12:12-13). Prayer should never take the place of our spiritual efforts to get things done. We should pray as if all depended on God and "work" as if all depended on us. The emphasis is on work and pray or watch and pray.

The prayer of all prayers is found in Jn. 17, the Lord's prayer, when He prayed for his disciples that they might all be "one" (cf. Jn. 17:21-23). This is the real Lord's prayer. Jesus is our great high priest who intercedes for us (Rom. 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1). This great spiritual privilege of prayer makes Christians the salt of the earth, as they pray for civil leaders (Mt 5:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Till the last amen,
Freeman

Inside This Issue

Love Letter Headline "Praying Acceptably"	1
Agape Corners "Why Did David Call Him Lord?"	2
Agape Spotlight Brother Shon Myers	3
Agape Considerations "Prayers Of Thanksgiving"	3

Important Dates

* Welcome Fellowship
Dinner With The Freeman's TBA

*7/31/22 Installation Service & Program For Bro. Freeman

Plan Of Salvation

In order to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ, which is the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) which is the body (Col. 1:18).

God has provided a scheme of redemption. A Plan of Salvation.

All who obey God, through Christ, must:

1. Hear the Gospel.
Rom. 10:12-17;
I Cor. 15:1-4
2. Believe in Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Jn. 8:24
3. Repent of your Sins.
Acts 2:38; 17:30,
Lk. 13:3, 5.
4. Confess Faith In Christ. Rom. 10:9.
5. Be Baptized for the remission of sins.
Mk. 16:16,
Acts 2:38; 22:16
6. The Lord will add you to His Body, which is the church.
Acts 2:47

This is the simple plan of salvation. There are biblical examples of this :
Acts 8:26-39.

Dear student of the Bible, follow after the Lord in the same fashion , and you too can be saved.



AGAPE

Corners (Evangelism
Ministry)

Why Did David Call Him Lord?

In confronting the Pharisees, Jesus often “questioned” them for the purpose of teaching them the truth Jn. 17:17. We find one such example in Mt. 22:41-46. After our Lord asked the Pharisees who the coming Messiah would be descended from, they correctly answered “The son of David” vs. 42. Jesus then asked them a follow-up question, “How then doth David in spirit call him Lord saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool?” vs. 43-44.

Jesus was asking the Pharisees, “How could David call one of his descendants Lord”? How, indeed could a descendant of the house of Jesse 1 Sam. 16:1; 17:12; Mt. 1:6-15 be considered “divine” (or “Lord”)? David in speaking was guided by the Holy Spirit Mk. 12:36. Luke adds Lk. 20:42 that it was “in the book of Psalms” that David called him Lord Psa. 110:1.

Jesus then quotes from Psa. 110:1 and applies the language to David and says that he spoke by the Holy Spirit and called the Messiah “Lord” vs. 45. It seems in order to further confuse these Pharisees that Jesus added another question, “If David then call him Lord, how is he, his son?” vs. 45. Here was the point for them to explain. They could not admit it without acknowledging that while the Messiah was human as descended from David, He was also “divine” as the Messiah sent of God Mt. 10:40, Lk. 10:16; Jn. 5:23; 13:20; 15:21).

Christ wanted the Pharisees to acknowledge two things:

1) That Christ’s royalty is not on earth, but in heaven! Psa. 110:1; Mk. 16:19; Acts 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3,13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Pet. 3:21-22; 1 Cor. 15:24-25.

2) That the Messiah on earth was to have a twofold nature – fleshly and divine Isa. 53; Jn. 1:14; Rom. 1:3; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-15; 7:26).

The Bible records that “no one was able to answer him a word” Mt. 22:46 – ESV. It is not recorded that they even “attempted” to answer. They did not ask Him any more questions; this closed His debate with them! He had answered and confounded the various sects of the Jews by asking and answering questions. They had all failed “to catch him in his words” Mk. 12:13. All they could now do to Jesus was to resort to violence. This they did by bringing Jesus before their judgment seat Mt. 26; 27.

AGAPE Spot Light (Highlighting Our Members)



Brother Shon Myers, who just recently put the Lord on in Baptism, was so moved by the simplistic and plain teaching of the Word of God and the wonderful atmosphere of the congregation that it made it very easy to be-

come a part of the family of God.

Having labored in Law Enforcement for some 4.5 years, Shon knows and understands the value of trust, comradery and fellowship. Now, he has that relationship with a host of spiritual brothers and sisters.

His greatest desire is to grow in his understanding of the Word of God and to be involved in the various ministries of the Agape congregation.

God bless you Shon as we shine the spotlight of Agape love upon you. Till the last amen.

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" 1Thess. 5:5

AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)



Prayers Of Thanksgiving

Prayer and thankfulness are often joined in Scripture (Dan. 6:10; Phil. 4:6; Col. 1:3; 4:2; 1 Tim. 2:1). Prayer is an expression of our thankfulness to a gracious and giving God. Genuine prayers of thanksgiving to God will express itself in three categories of blessings:

We Are Thankful For What God "Has" Done For Us

Our Heavenly Father has given us physical life (Gen. 2:7; Acts 17:29; Heb. 12:9). Additionally, He has provided the things necessary to sustain our lives, i.e. rain from heaven (Mt. 5:45); food, water, and clothing (Mt. 6:25-26); air to breathe (Acts 17:25; cf. Gen. 2:7).

More importantly, He has given us spiritual life (Jn. 10:10; 2 Pet. 1:3). This life was given to us through the precious sacrifice of His Son (Jn. 3:16; 2 Cor. 8:9). Our natural reaction to such a

wonderful gift as this should be that of Paul, who said: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15). The Christian is thankful for the "past" blessings from God.

We Are Thankful For What He "Is" Doing For Us

We are thankful for His providence (Rom. 8:28; 1 Pet. 3:12). The Christian has the assurance that he is under the watchful eye and care of his Creator. We are thankful for His promises (Mt. 28:20; 2 Tim. 4:16-17; Tit. 1:2; Heb. 13:5-6; 2 Pet. 3:9). Thankfully, the Christian serves a "promise-keeping" God. The Christian is thankful for the "present" blessings from God.

We Are Thankful For What He "Will" Do For Us

Our Lord is coming back for us (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11) and He has promised to give us eternal life (Mt. 25:21,46). The Christian is thankful for the "future" blessings that will come from God.

Prayer is a vital part of the Christian's life. May we never diminish its great importance. And may God help us to be people who are not only thankful, but who are willing to express that thankfulness to the God of "every good gift and every perfect gift" (Jas. 1:17).

AGAPE Salutations

We, the Church of Christ, that meets at the Adorn Hall in Fresno, TX are delighted that you have received this particular edition of the "Love Letter"; a weekly publication which highlights important events and featured articles by our Minister and staff.

When you have the opportunity we would be elated to welcome you to any and all of our services at the congregation.

It is our great joy to proclaim the glad tidings of Christ, His Kingdom and His glorious gospel.

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