

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY WHEN WE PRAY FOR OUR ENEMIES?

Jesus tells us to PRAY for our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44). This is so unlike what people do when they follow their own feelings. However, it is what Jesus commanded.

We should pray **they would see the error of their way**. We want them to acknowledge their evil and turn from it. “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: ...Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: ...Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:19-21).

We should pray **their heart will be softened by the Gospel and that they will come to a knowledge of the truth**. “I exhort...that... supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;... For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:1-4). When our enemies learn the truth, accept it and obey it, they will no longer be our enemy. We want them to be our brother in the Lord, not our enemy.

We should pray **they have the opportunity to repent of their sins**. “The Lord is...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9). “And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...” (II Peter 3:15). Every day they live is another day they have to learn the truth — to repent and be baptized in order that they may be saved, not condemned (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21).

We should pray that **we will stand up under their persecution**. “... Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:2-3). “...Tribulation worketh patience...” (Romans 5:3-4).

We should pray **we will be able to learn and profit from the experience**. “...Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (II Corinthians 4:17). We will be stronger as a result of persecution if we do not give way to evil. Pray for your enemies and yourself!

Garland M. Robinson *from East End Bulletin*

AVOIDING STRIFE

In Matthew 5:25, Jesus tells us to agree with our adversary quickly. Matthew 12:25 explains that a house divided cannot stand. Matthew 18:15 further directs us that if our brother offends us, we are to discuss the issue with him personally.

These three passages tell us the importance of avoiding strife. Strife causes confusion. Strife causes hurt feelings. Strife can cause a Christian to stop following the Lord. A Christian should be one who avoids argument at every opportunity. This is not to say that we should not earnestly contend for the faith. No, no. Jude 3 instructs us to do that very thing.

Standing up for the truth and being argumentative are two very different things. G. P. Holt used to say he could call a man a dog and get away with it if he did it right. He would walk up to a man, smile and put his arm around his shoulders and say, “I hear you’re the big dog around here!”, and the man would smile and thank him for saying it. We need to be very careful how we correct someone who may be in error. We need to be gentle and meek in our responses to others, even if we are right and they are wrong. Speaking the truth in love may bring a brother back to the fold. Speaking in harshness may separate him from the fold forever.

Paul said in Titus 3:9, “But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and striving about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.” There are those in the church, just as in the world, who love to create and feed contention. The Bible says do not argue with them.

W.M. Bishop *from East End Bulletin*

WHAT I CAN DO

I will...

Like Paul - forget those things which are behind and press forward.

Like David - lift up my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.

Like Abraham - trust implicitly in my God.

Like Enoch - walk in daily fellowship with my heavenly Father.

Like Jehosaphat - prepare my heart to seek the Lord.

Like Moses - choose rather to suffer than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

Like Daniel - commune with God at all times in all places.

Like Job - be patient under all circumstances.

Like Caleb & Joshua - refuse to be discouraged because of the superior number of foes.

Like Joseph - turn my back on all seductive advances.

Like Gideon - advance, even though my friends are few.

Like Aaron & Hur - uphold the hands of the preacher and the leaders of the church with my prayers and support.

Like Andrew - strive to lead my brother to Christ.

Like Stephen - manifest a forgiving spirit toward all who seek my hurt.

Like Jesus - go ahead about doing good.

Bob Craig *adapted from East End Bulletin*

BIRTHDAYS

Kevin Greer, 12-18; Chris Edwards, 12-21;
Curtis Stillwell, 12-23.

ILL

Sunday: Lynda Cole. **Wednesday:** Gary Cole. Susan Cotterill had surgery on Friday, December 15 at Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park, Kansas and is recovering at this time.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, Diane Cannon, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Meredith Greer, Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

The Browns were in Wichita, KS last weekend visiting with friends. Wilba Hopkins was in Springfield, MO last weekend visiting relatives. Jeremy Keifer was in Oklahoma visiting relatives and will be in Oklahoma over the holiday break. We are thankful for Tom Tucker's return to us last Sunday.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brother Jim O'Connor will be speaking at our AM and PM worship next Sunday, December 24. We welcome Jim and Judy and are thankful for their good work.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 57; Sunday PM, 44; Wednesday PM, 46.

"When we grow old, there can only be one regret: not to have given enough of ourselves."

"Kind words and good deeds are eternal. You never know where their influence will end."

Those To Serve

December 17, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Tullis

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Charles Tullis
PRESIDE..... John Carter
ASSIST..... Allen Scott
ASSIST..... David Adams
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Ken Greer
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Carter

WEDNESDAY 20th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson
INVITATION Myron Nebergall

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher
Phone: (913) 764-2325
E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp