

## 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*

**ILL**

John and Linda Shafer (general health), Judy O'Connor (general health)

Those battling cancer: Susan Tigner, Tabby Jenkins

**PRAYER LIST**

Those listed above who are ill, Teresa Ambler (recovery from surgery), Mary Huffman, Tom Tucker, John Dodson, Jacob Wright

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**

Ladies Bible Class will meet on Saturday, December 29th at 10:00 AM at the church building. All ladies are encouraged to attend. Be sure to invite a relative, friend or neighbor to come with you!

**RETIREMENT PARTY**

Ted and Julia Thrasher will be retiring at the end of the year. To celebrate their retirement we will be having a retirement party at the building on Friday, January 11 at 6 PM. All are invited!

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

In preparation for the New Year we will be updating the directory for 2019. A copy of the 2018 directory is available on the table for your review. Please validate your information is correct and make any necessary corrections. If you are missing from the 2018 directory then we do not have your information! Please fill out a Directory Information Gathering Sheet with your information so we can include it in the 2019 directory. We would like to have the directory updated by the end of December for release in January 2019.

**ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM 30; Sunday PM 25; Wednesday 24.

**Those To Serve**

**December 16, 2018**

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Dave Parish**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher**  
**SONG LEADER.....George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER .....Dave Parish**  
**PRESIDE .....Trent Thrasher**  
**ASSIST.....George Thomas**  
**CLOSING PRAYER.....John Carter**

**EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER .....Trent Thrasher**  
**CLOSING PRAYER.....George Thomas**  
**LORD'S SUPPER.....George Thomas**

**WEDNESDAY 19th**

**SONG LEADER.....Trent Thrasher**  
**INVITATION .....George Thomas**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday**

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

**Wednesday**

Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher  
E-mail: thrasher@oabs.org

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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