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1:3-8

Who do you pray for? Do you only pray for fellow Christians when they are struggling?

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Matthew 6:8-9

“Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

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John 5:17-18

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We pray to our heavenly Father as Jesus did,
not claiming equality with the Father, but
acknowledging that we have been adopted as
sons of God.

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Romans 8:15-17

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It is a tremendous honor and privilege to be able to speak to the God who created the heavens and earth and everything in them as Father.

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Paul, as always, gives glory to God alone (soli deo gloria) for not only his salvation, but the salvation of anyone and everyone who is saved

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Romans 9:15-16

“For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.”

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Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,”

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2 Thessalonians 2:13

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

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The Colossians, Romans, Ephesians, Thessalonians, and Pecan Creekers have all been saved the same way, by the unmerited supernatural work of God.

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Love of fellow believers is a telling mark of a true believer.

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John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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The world did not love Christ, the world did not love Christians, and the world does not love you.

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You need the love that only other Christians can provide, and other Christians need the love that you should be providing.

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How do people know that you are a Christian?

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Love of others flows from a heart that has been transformed by God. That is why love is such a powerful indicator of true salvation. Humans are by nature selfish. Only by the supernatural power of God can we become selfless and put others above ourselves.

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Even though all Christians possess an eternal inheritance, many place too much hope in this life.

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A Christian's eternal destination is certain and knowing this should change the way we live out our days on this earth.

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Romans 8:18-25

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Acts 14:19-22

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Colossians 1:12

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Colossians 3:1-3

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1 Peter 1:3-5

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If you want someone to be saved, what should you do?

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Share the gospel with them.

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Romans 10:13-14

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?”

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The word of truth is the gospel, and the truth of the gospel is salvation by grace.

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What does it mean to “understand the truth of God in grace?”

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Anyone who believes that they have been saved by their own doing, is not believing the truth, but a lie.

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Series: Colossians

Sermon: Colossians 1:2

- 1. Who does Jesus instruct His disciples to pray to in Matt. 6:8-9? _____ Who does Paul specifically pray to in the following passages?**

Eph. 1:17-19 _____

Eph. 3:16-19 _____

Phil. 1:3-6 _____

Col.: 1:3-5 _____

The vast majority of the prayers of Paul are directed to God the Father. How could acknowledging God as “Father” be of benefit to you in your prayer life?

- 2. While there are many prayers to God the Father, there is certainly nothing wrong with praying directly to Jesus Christ. See Acts 7:59, 2 Cor. 12:8-9, and 1 Tim. 1:12, John 16:24. What comfort is their knowing that you can pray to Jesus?**

- 3. In Col. 1:3-4, 1 Thess. 5:17, and Phil. 1:3-5 Paul thanks God for his fellow believers. What about you, should you make such prayers of thankfulness for fellow believers more common in your time of prayer? _____**

- 4. In Col. 1:5-6, Paul speaks of the gospel bearing fruit both in the lives of the believers, and in its spread to others. The gospel should certainly have an internal affect on a person who has been saved and produce a desire to spread the gospel to others. How do we see both of these being displayed in what we know of Epaphras? See Col. 1:7-8.**

- 5. Paul makes sure to emphasize that all who have been saved have been saved by grace, and that salvation by grace is the truth of God. See Col. 1:2,6. Why do you think it is that so many professing Christians practically deny grace, by attributing their own salvation, at least in part, to their own doing?**

- 6. In Col. 1:5, Paul wrote to the Colossians about the hope laid up for them in heaven. Reminding people of their eternal home was quite common for Paul. What are some benefits of thinking more often about the hope that we have laid up for us in heaven?**

