

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

GOD CARES HOW WE PRAY

Prayer is among the most ancient of ways that man has worshiped God. Why would God expect and listen to prayer?

Prayer has many benefits. It reminds us who has given what we have and who to ask for what we need (James 1:17; Matt. 7:11). Unthankful people often think they are taking care of themselves and need no one's help. This is the first of many lies they believe (Rom. 1:21-25). By teaching us to pray, God is looking out for our own good. Since God cares about our wellbeing, God cares about prayer.

God permits His people to offer requests to Him (Philip. 4:6). God gave us no permission to pray to nature, ancestors, Mary, or dead saints—these are lawless acts (Matt. 7:23).

God does not accept all prayers. Only a faithful Christian can pray with confidence that his prayers are accepted (1 Pet. 3:12; Heb. 4:16). Doubt, hypocrisy, neglect in marriage, or any form of unrighteousness will make your prayers void (Jam. 1:6-7; Lk. 18:9ff; 1 Pet. 3:7, 12).

We also must be active in what we ask from God. If we ask for food but refuse to work, God will not accept our request. If we pray for salvation but do not leave sin, will not confess Jesus, or have not accepted the Lord's baptism, God will not accept our request. God cares how we pray.

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- How We Pray
- How We Sing
- How We Give
- About Doctrine

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GOD CARES HOW WE SING

Do you follow God's ways in your decisions (marriage, divorce, eating)? When God has revealed His will for us, we must only do what He permits without adding or subtracting.

About music, God said: *...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* (Col. 3:16). What did God say to do with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs? Sing. He did not say to play songs, so why is that common? If you play songs, do you add jelly to the unleavened bread or burn incense as worship? Some justify playing by saying "God did not say it is wrong," but where did God say jelly on the bread of the Lord's Supper or even cannibalism is wrong? Learn what is right by what God has said. Playing songs to worship God is no more pleasing than was Nadab and Abihu's fire "which God had not commanded."

While some people think this issue is only important to the churches of Christ, many church founders and leaders spoke against playing songs (Calvin, Spurgeon, Wesley, Adam Clarke). God and man's record of history affirms that the first Christians did not play musical instruments but simply did what God said without addition or subtraction: sing.

GOD CARES HOW WE GIVE

Though “begging TV preachers” have given giving a bad name, God still cares how we give.

Ever since the twelve apostles began spreading the gospel of Christ, Christians have regularly given money for the work God assigned to the church in that place. For example, in Jerusalem, Christians laid money at the apostles’ feet (Acts 4:37). The apostles made sure the funds were given to disciples in need (Acts 2:45; 6:1). I recently was told of a church giving televisions away for “perfect attendance”! That is sinful for the same reason instrumental music in worship and cannibalism are sinful (If you do not know why these are wrong, read Bible-based articles on these subjects at our website).

Christians were taught to give as they prospered and purposed in their heart on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7). The New Testament does not record even one Christian tithing. Tithing, like incense, animal sacrifices, and Sabbath, was taught to Israel, not Christians. Churches who demand tithing are binding laws God does not bind.

Do you notice churches constantly expecting more money or engaged in business (selling food, CDs, t-shirts,...)? You will never notice that in the Bible. In God’s way, churches are equipped for their work by Christians who give as they prosper. God teaches us about giving—have you learned?

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God... casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

GOD CARES ABOUT DOCTRINE

Are you interested in doctrine? The apostles’ doctrine was originally taught (Acts 2:42). The doctrine of Christ is essential to having God (2 John 9). Obeying doctrine from the heart keeps us from being servants of sin (Romans 6:17).

The word doctrine means teaching. Paul gave the same doctrine to every church and expected there to be “no other doctrine” (1 Corinthians 4:17; 1:10; 1 Timothy 1:3).

Ironically, churches who teach conflicting doctrines all claim to be led by the Holy Spirit. Would He really teach one church to sprinkle water and another to immerse in water for baptism? Would He teach some people salvation by faith only and others salvation by a sinner’s prayer? God is not the author of such confusion and division, nor is He pleased with it (1 Corinthians 14:33; 1:10). But some people are glad for different churches and teachings thinking it offers something good for everyone like a dinner buffet. God’s doctrines are not given to suit our individual taste but to reflect His perfect wisdom. The doctrine of Christ shows the salvation of Christ resulting in the church of Christ (Acts 2:47). How could you not be interested?

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. God commands us to pray—for whose benefit?
2. What were Christians told to do with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs?
3. How did churches in the Bible obtain funds to spend for their work in the Lord?
4. Why should we care about doctrine?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**