

SICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Brenda Rushing, Sue Lockhart, Kenneth Windham, Bettye Henderson, Leta Phillips, Ricky Pope, Neil Myers

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Anna Turner, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Wanda Williams, Robert Turner, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Wright, Gregory Morris, Donna Rutledge, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Joe Spivy, Misty Aldridge, Jincy Wright, Kenneth Jackson, Kim Elliott, James Felton

AM - NEIL MYERS

PM - SINGING AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

GUS NICHOLS SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL EMPHASIS THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 6TH AVE.

REMEMBER MID-WEEK SERVICES WILL BE TUESDAY THIS WEEK.

SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO MARGARET BARTON DUE TO THE DEATH OF HER SISTER-IN-LAW PATRICIA TOWNLEY. SERVICES WERE LAST WEEK.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIE & NELDA NELSON ON THE BIRTH OF TWIN GRANDSONS, BRADEN & SAWYER KNOLES. THEY WERE BORN LAST SATURDAY.

ANNIVERSARY:

Nov 22: Ben & Jincy Wright

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HIGHWAY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

BIBLE CLASS 9:30

WORSHIP 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827
Carlton Myers 221-0637
Neil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

Does God Hear an Alien Sinner's Prayer?

David Sproule

When any question is asked like this, there are some important things to remember. First, we can only know that God does or does not do something based on what Scripture tells

us and not on human conjecture. Second, acceptance of a Bible truth does not force the acceptance of a falsely devised premise based on that truth (example: it is true that Lydia's household was baptized, but that does not force one to accept infant baptism). Third, the context of a passage must be carefully weighed (context includes the speaker, the setting, the verses surrounding, and remembering to keep it in harmony with the whole of Scripture).

We need to be careful drawing conclusions and basing arguments on John 9:31. The statement in that verse ("we know that God does not hear sinners") was not made by an inspired man but was a response made by a formerly-blind man to some dogmatic Pharisees. That doesn't automatically deny the truthfulness of the statement, but it also doesn't automatically make it true. The matter would need to be affirmed elsewhere to make it so.

There is the example of Cornelius in Acts 10. He definitely was not in a saved condition (see Acts 11:14) when he "prayed to God always" (10:2), but an angel came and told him, "Your prayers...have come up...before God" (10:4). God heard this non-Christian's prayers, but was it just an exception for the whole purpose of taking the gospel to the Gentiles? It is important to note that irrespective of God hearing his prayers, Cornelius was definitely not saved by prayer.

Jesus taught, "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine" (John 7:17), and, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). If a sinner prays, desiring to find and know God's will, what commitment has the Lord made to such a heart in these passages? The law of Christ is amenable to all, therefore, these words in Matthew 12:36-37 apply to all: "Every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Would this include words that a non-Christian might use in a "prayer"? Does God hear those words?

The argument cannot be sustained that God does not hear an alien sinner's prayer, as the whole of Scripture does not support such. However, that in NO way lends credence to contriving or accepting a falsely devised premise that God would save an alien sinner by means of a prayer. God's clearly revealed plan of salvation will not ever justify that notion.

"I Like Your Christ, But Not Your Christians"

Eddy Gilpin

The statement is attributed to Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948). Actually, the statement in full reads: "I like your Christ. I don't like your Christians; because your Christians are not like your Christ." Although Gandhi's religion is a false one, his tireless efforts to help the down-trodden and his wise sayings are legendary, especially among the Indian people. Even

though we cannot agree with his religious teachings, there is much truth in many of the things he said-among them, this statement.

What is a “Christian?” He is a follower of Christ. Christ is his leader (I Pet. 2:21), and he is His follower. Some 16 times in the gospel records Jesus made the statement (either to an individual or to a group), “follow Me.” Paul commanded the Corinthians to “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (I Cor. 11:1). Among the statements Jesus made, He stated, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mk. 8:34). One who follows another as Christ commands us to follow Him will become like his leader. One who is truly a Christian, then, talks as Jesus talked, acts as Jesus acted and lives as Jesus lived. Unlike Jesus, however, we will make mistakes, we will sin (I Pet. 2:22). That being true, we will also seek always to walk in the light of His word (I Jn. 1:7), seeking forgiveness of our wrongs (I Jn. 1:9) and the kingdom of God first (Mt. 6:33).

One who claims to be a Christian, yet whose life is not patterned after His is a hypocrite, a word from the Greek hupokriteis, meaning “an actor under an assumed character” (Strong’s). That is, he is one thing in name and quite another in action. As one on a stage assumes a role that is not truly himself, so it is with one who plays the role of a follower of Christ on occasion, but not consistently. Jesus revealed that every follower of His must “take up his cross daily” (Lk. 9:23). He cannot be “double minded” and, thus, “unstable in all his ways” (Jas. 1:8). The church at Sardis portrays such an individual. They had “a name that thou livest, and art dead” (Rev. 3:1). Their reputation among men did not equal their character with God.

Gandhi was/is not the only one to notice that many who claim to be Christians are not actually followers of Christ. Could that be said of you? Are you “one person” on Sunday, but “another person” every other day of the week? Are you “an actor under an assumed character” (a hypocrite)? The Lord had condemning words for the hypocrites of His day (cf. Mt. 22:18; 23:13-27; etc.). His words will be no less condemnatory on the Day of Judgment for those who merely play-act at being His followers (Lk. 13:23-28). If you are not a faithful Christian every day, you are not a faithful Christian any day; and you are not like Christ.