

A Call to Prayer

J. C. Ryle

Part 1

Beginning to paragraph ending, “Then rest assured that my question is of very first importance -- DO YOU PRAY?)

What question is the one that only you can answer?

DO YOU PRAY? [¶ BEGINNING, “I HAVE A QUESTION TO OFFER YOU.”, 2ND SENTENCE]

“It is one thing to _____ your prayers and another thing to _____.”

SAY / PRAY. [¶ BEGINNING, “I BESEECH YOU IN ALL AFFECTION TO ATTEND TO THE SUBJECT I BRING BEFORE YOU.”, 5TH SENTENCE]

What is the first reason the author identifies concerning the importance of prayer?

“PRAYER IS ABSOLUTELY NEEDFUL TO A MAN’S SALVATION.” [¶ BEGINNING WITH QUOTED ANSWER.]

Why does the author believe that prayer is absolutely needful for salvation?

“THAT A MAN CAN HAVE SALVATION WITHOUT *ASKING* FOR IT, I CANNOT SEE IN THE BIBLE.” [¶ BEGINNING, “I HOLD SALVATION BY GRACE AS STRONGLY AS ANY ONE.”, 4TH SENTENCE]

How does the author qualify this statement? (hint: last sentence of Point I, 2nd ¶)

WE CANNOT BE SAVED BY PRAYER, BUT WE CANNOT BE SAVED WITHOUT PRAYER. [¶ BEGINNING, “I HOLD SALVATION BY GRACE AS STRONGLY AS ANY ONE.”, LAST SENTENCE]

Although the author states that a person does not need to read the Bible for salvation, can a person be saved without the Bible? Why, or why not?

NO, ROMANS 10.17 -- SO FAITH COMES FROM HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF CHRIST. / I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHOR IS SAYING THAT THE BIBLE IS UNNECESSARY FOR SALVATION. ACCORDING TO ROMANS 10.17, THERE CANNOT BE FAITH WITHOUT THE GOSPEL IN THE SCRIPTURES. I BELIEVE THE AUTHOR'S POINT IS THAT A PERSON DOES NOT NEED TO READ THE BIBLE IN ORDER TO BE SAVED. HOW WOULD AN ILLITERATE, DYING MAN BE SAVED IF HE HAD NOT THE STRENGTH TO LIFT A BIBLE TO READ IT WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO READ IN THE FIRST PLACE? HE WOULD BE DOOMED. THE 3RD PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD ONLY WITHIN THE STRICTEST CONFINES OF THE AUTHOR'S WORDS. OTHERWISE IT OPENS A PANDORA'S BOX CONCERNING THE NATURE OF SALVATION AND HOW IT IS OBTAINED. [ALL OF ¶ BEGINNING, “IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY NEEDFUL TO SALVATION THAT A MAN SHOULD READ THE BIBLE.”]

What point does the author make about prayer, using the illustration of health and learning.

THEY ARE THINGS THAT ONE MUST DO FOR HIMSELF; NO ONE CAN DO THEM FOR HIM. [ALL OF ¶ BEGINNING, “THERE IS NO ROYAL ROAD EITHER TO HEALTH OR LEARNING.”]

What kinds of spiritual things must a person do for himself?

REPENTANCE, FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER. [¶ BEGINNING, “JUST AS IT IS WITH THE MIND AND BODY, SO IT IS WITH THE SOUL.”, 4TH - 6TH SENTENCES]

“To be _____ is to be without _____, without _____, without _____, and without _____.”

PRAYERLESS / GOD / CHRIST / GRACE / HOPE / HEAVEN. [¶ BEGINNING WITH ABOVE QUOTE]

What is the second important reason for prayer?

THE HABIT OF PRAYER IS ONE OF THE SUREST MARKS OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN. [¶ BEGINNING WITH QUOTED ANSWER.]

When the author says that God has no dumb children, what does he mean?

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PRAYERLESS & SILENT CHRISTIAN. [¶ BEGINNING, “THIS IS ONE OF THE COMMON MARKS OF ALL THE ELECT OF GOD...”, 4TH SENTENCE]

What reasons does the author give that not praying is a clear proof that a person is not a true Christian?

HE CAN'T FEEL HIS SINS; HE CAN'T SENSE HIS DEBT TO CHRIST; HE CAN'T LONG AFTER HOLINESS OR HEAVEN. [¶ BEGINNING, “BUT THIS ID SO SAY, THAT NOT PRAYING IS A CLEAR PROOF THAT A MAN IS NOT YET A TRUE CHRISTIAN.”, 1ST - 6TH SENTENCES]

“_____ is to the _____ what _____ is to the _____. _____ is to faith what _____ is to life.”

FAITH / SOUL / LIFE / BODY / PRAYER / BREATH. [¶ BEGINNING, “I KNOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO CALLS SINNERS FROM THEIR EVIL WAYS...”, 7TH - 8TH SENTENCES]

How has this chapter encouraged/challenged you to pray?

You can download reading guides for A Call to Prayer and other books at www.lifeisworship.com on the Resources page.

beseech -- beg

close -- personal

dumb -- mute, silent

eminent -- important, significant