
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Did the apostles teach alien sinners to pray “the sinner’s prayer”?**

Most churches and most religious pamphlets teach people to believe in Jesus as God’s Son and then they encourage people to pray a “sinner’s prayer” that goes something like this:

“Lord, I know I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus is your Son and that He died for me on the cross to take away my sins. I accept Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior and I ask you to forgive me of my sins. In Jesus name, Amen.”

The question we’re asking is, **Did any of the apostles teach alien sinners to pray a prayer like this to be saved?** Is salvation a simple matter of just believing in Jesus and praying a prayer? Let’s see what the apostle Peter said:

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; ...

You will notice the absence of the “sinner’s prayer.” You **will** notice the presence of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins.

But what did Jesus Himself teach?

Mark 16:15-16

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Again, notice the absence of the “sinner’s prayer.” Notice the presence of belief and baptism to be saved.

1 Peter 3:20-21

20 ... in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, ... eight souls, were saved through water.

21 There is also an antitype which now saves us; **baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Notice the absence of the “sinner’s prayer.” Notice the presence of baptism for a good conscience. Alien sinners were never told to pray a prayer to be saved.

But someone objects and they read:

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

“Here,” they say, “This passage teaches to pray for forgiveness of sins.”

But read the entire chapter. This is speaking to Christians who have sinned after having been baptized. This is not speaking to alien sinners.

Here, then, is the conclusion of the matter:

- Alien sinners were not told to pray for forgiveness – they were told to believe, repent, and be baptized.
- Christians were told to pray for forgiveness when they sinned.

My friend, if you prayed in order to get saved, you have not obeyed the gospel. Jesus did not teach that alien sinners were saved by prayer. They are saved by a new birth which culminates in baptism for the remission of sins.

John 3:5

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

To be “born of water” means to be baptized. Jesus set the record straight so there can be no misunderstanding.

If you have not obeyed the gospel as taught by Jesus and the apostles, I would encourage you to give serious consideration to doing so. Life is too short and eternity is too long to take chances with your soul. The Lord loves you. He died for you. But you have to obey what He said to be saved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.