

The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



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March 2, 2025

Should We Only Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus?

by Nicholas Batzig

PART 2

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THE GOSPELS

Jesus' teaching about prayer is most instructive. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught his disciples to address their prayers to God the Father: "Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven..." *Westminster Larger Catechism 189* explains the significance of this in the following way:

The preface of the Lord's prayer (contained in these words, Our Father which art in heaven,) teacheth us, when we pray, to draw near to God with confidence of his fatherly goodness, and our interest therein; with reverence, and all other child-like dispositions, heavenly affections, and due apprehensions of his sovereign power, majesty, and gracious condescension: as also, to pray with and for others.

Additionally, Jesus addressed all of his prayers to the Father. Whether it was in the High Priestly prayer in the Upper Room, in the Garden of Gethsemane, or on the cross, Jesus always began his prayers by calling on God the Father. This is, no doubt, on account of the fact that he had come to do the will of his Father and to glorify his Father in the mission on which he was sent by the Father. In the economy of redemption, the second person of the Godhead prayed to the first person of the Godhead.

In the Upper Room discourse, Jesus taught his disciples the significance of praying "in his name" when he said, "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do" (John 14:13); "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you" (John 15:16); and "In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you" (John 16:23). In this way, Jesus was highlighting his role as the mediator between God and man. The same Christ who said, "No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6), taught us that the Father only hears us when we pray to him through the mediatorial work of the Son in accord with the truth of His word.

THE APOSTOLIC PRAYERS

When we move into the early days of the New Covenant era, we find Stephen—the first Christian martyr—crying out as he was

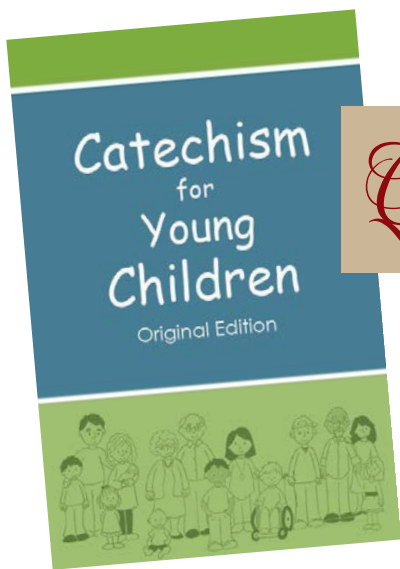
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TWIN LAKES FELLOWSHIP

Missionary of the Week



Twin Lakes Fellowship is a ministerial fraternal devoted to the encouragement of Gospel ministry and ministers, and to the promotion of healthy biblical church planting. The Fellowship is a ministry of the Session of the historic First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. ♦



Question 120:

What is the sixth petition?

Answer:

“And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”

***Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify
the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16***

The Holy Spirit comes to live inside us when we become Christians. He changes our hearts so that now we want to do what is right. He gives us the power to NOT do what we want to do when we know it would be wrong. However, our hearts continue to be sinful until the day we die. We still want to sin. It often feels like there is a war going on inside us! This war is between new desires to please God and old desires to sin and please self. If God does not protect us from sin, all our efforts are useless. That is why Jesus taught us to pray this petition. ♦



from *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds*, Starr Meade



at the corner of

River &
Rhett

MEN'S SEMINAR

The Masculine Mandate
with Richard Phillips

Saturday
March 15

8:00 – 9:30 A.M.

SPC Gymnasium

High School Age Men and Up



Books available in the SPC Bookstore for \$10.

The way for Christian men to leave a lasting legacy is for us to embrace the Bible's model of shepherd-leadership. Our goal must be not just to carve out success for ourselves, but to leave a blessed imprint on the lives of those who are under our care. (p. 64)

march birthdays



- 1** Maggi Mae Billingsley, Katy Jones
- 2** Johnny Mann, Naomi Scott
- 3** Jan Hu, Mike Sworin
- 4** Finn Davis, Richard Tabb
- 5** John Economidis, Larry Guy, Christine Korol, David Leang, Jack Tabb
- 6** Callie Hoopes
- 7** Jean Pennington, Colin Weaver
- 8** Caleb Barbier



**the
righteous
are bold
as a lion**

Proverbs 28:1

This Week

MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

REVEALER OF MYSTERIES

Daniel 2:24–35

EVENING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL

Acts 15:1–21

Sunday, March 2

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
10:00 A.M. Membership Class (*Room C-209*)
11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
5:00 P.M. Finance Committee (*Conference Room*)
5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

Monday, March 3

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)
6:00 P.M. Diaconate Meeting (*Conference Room*)

Tuesday, March 4

- 10:00 A.M. WIC Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

Wednesday, March 5

- 5:00 P.M. Pastoral Care Committee (*Office Work Room*)
5:15 P.M. WIC Council (*Conference Room*)
5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4–K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1–6);
Youth Choir (Grades 7–12)
6:45 P.M. Missions Moment (*Gym*)
7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3–Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5–8)
7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

Friday, March 7

- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
1:30 P.M. Mission to Main
5:00 P.M. WIC Ladies Conference (*Gym*)

Saturday, March 8

- 9:30 A.M. WIC Ladies Conference (*Gym*)

Upcoming Events

spcgreenville.org/calendar

March 3	Diaconate Meeting
March 7-8	WIC Ladies Conference
March 9	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 10	Session Meeting
March 14	Friday Night Alive
March 15	Masculine Mandate
March 16	Communion in the Morning Services
April 6	New Member Luncheon

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stoned, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59). Here is the first reference we find in the New Testament in which we see that it is altogether right for believers to pray directly to the Son of God. Jesus is God and as such deserves the same worshipful approach as the Father. Saul of Tarsus, in his conversion prayer, also prayed directly to Jesus. When he heard the voice from heaven, he said, “Who are you, Lord?” The response? “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:5).

In the New Testament epistles, we find that the majority of prayers are addressed directly to the Father. For instance, the apostle Paul explained his prayerful commitment for the well-being of the members of the fledgling church when he said, “I bow my knees to the Father” (Eph. 3:14). In calling his readers to pursue a life of holy living, Simon Peter wrote, “If you call on him as Father... conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile” (1 Pet. 1:17). There are numerous other places in the New Testament that lead us to conclude that, *ordinarily*, the Father is the proper subject of address in prayer.

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Announcements

New Covenant Child

We rejoice with Jeff and Bethany Early on the birth of Anne Joy Early on February 22. Anne joins siblings Brooke, James, and Lynne at home.

Time Change!

Remember to change your clocks AHEAD one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8.



Friday Night Alive

All singles are invited to the Phillips Home for a meal, fellowship, and teaching time on Friday, March 14, beginning at 6:00 P.M. Please contact Sharon Phillips if you need a ride or have questions.

Clemson R.U.F. (Reformed University Fellowship) Reunion

MARCH 28–30, 2025 40 Years Reunion Information & Registration
Register at the link below for additional details. Registration ends March 21.

<https://gather.ruf.org/event/clemson-ruf-40-year-reunion/>

Email any questions to Daniel Hightower, Campus Minister:
Daniel.hightower@ruf.org

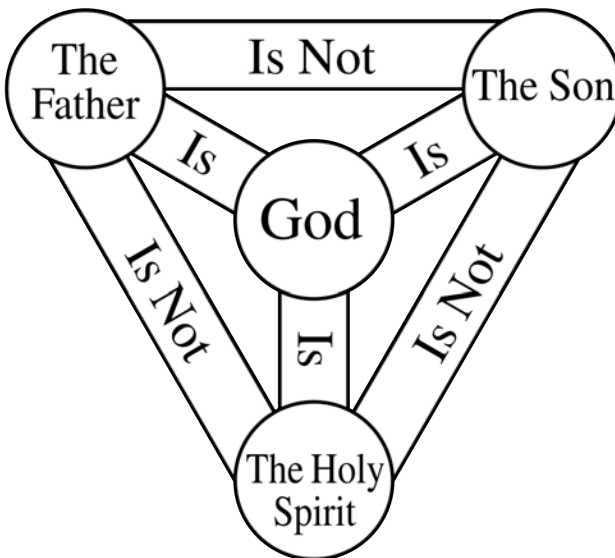
Baptism Sunday

If you would like to schedule a baptism for your child, please contact the church office.

■ IT IS RIGHT FOR US TO ADDRESS EACH AND EVERY PERSON OF THE GODHEAD IN PRAYER.

Though there is much more that the Scriptures have to teach us about this subject, I have come to the settled position that it is right for us to address each and every person of the Godhead in prayer—honoring each one as the infinite and eternal God. We would err if we did not treat the Son and Spirit as co-equal members of the Godhead in this way. In the economy of redemption, however, the *ordinary* way in which God is to be addressed in prayer is as “our Father,” even “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” in the name of Jesus (*i.e., through his mediation*) by the power of the Holy Spirit. As the apostle puts it, “For through him [Christ] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father” (Eph. 2:18). ♦

Nicholas Batzig is a former associate editor for Ligonier Ministries, church planter, author, and currently is the Senior Minister of Church Creek Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC.





The Sovereignty of God is the stumbling block on which thousands fall and perish; and if we go contending with God about His sovereignty it will be our eternal ruin.

It is absolutely necessary that we should submit to God as an absolute sovereign, and the sovereign of our souls; as one who may have mercy on whom He will have mercy and harden whom He will.



JOHNATHAN EDWARDS



DANIEL 4: 43–35

[Nebuchadnezzar] blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”