

# The World's Most Dangerous Doctrine

Prayer

# Introductory Points on Prayer

- Most of us learned to pray by listening to other people.
- Prayer is important because it activates the word of God in your life.
- I Corinthians 14:14-15—we need to pray with understanding.
- Prayer like the gospel, our commission, tongues, and healing is a Dispensational subject.
- Prayer will always function in accordance with the current Dispensation.

# Israel's Prayer Life in Time Past

- Under the law Israel had a contractual relationship with God. Sin hindered her fellowship with God.
- Deuteronomy 28
- When living in sin God would not even hear Israel's prayers
  - Isaiah 59:1-2
  - Psalm 66:18
  - Proverbs 15:29
  - Micah 3:4
  - II Chronicles 6:24-24, 7:14

# Pauline Counterpoints

1. All our sins have been forgiven.
  2. We have God's very righteousness imputed to our account (justification).
  3. Therefore, we have direct and uninhibited access to God at all times through prayer.
- We enjoy and intimacy with God that Israel never possessed.

# Is the Lord's Prayer for Today?

- Matthew 6:7—Jesus tells them not to pray using vain repetition yet that is precisely what people do with the Lord's Prayer that follows.
- Matthew 6:9-13—Is this really how we should pray today during the Dispensation of Grace?
  - Are we looking for the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth?
  - Is God supernaturally providing our daily bread like He will for Israel during the tribulation?
  - Do you really want the conditional forgiveness taught in the prayer and immediately following?

# Pauline Counterpoint

- These verses are totally contrary to Paul's teaching on forgiveness.
  - Ephesians 4:32—We are instructed to forgive because we have been forgiven.
- Teaching that the Lord's Prayer is for today would also mean that our forgiveness was conditional.

# Name it Claim it Word of Faith Prayer

- Matthew 18:18-20—when people agree together in prayer and ask for something it will be done for them.
- This verse and others like it, are used to claim everything from physical healing, salvation of family members, revelation of God's will, to better houses and cars.
- Matthew 21:21-22—Not enough faith is once again used as an excuse for why the verse is not working.

# Pauline Counterpoints

- How are you supposed to operate Matthew 21:21-22 when Romans 8:26-27 teaches that we don't know what to pray for?
- Philippians 4:6-7—Every aspect of your life, spiritual and physical should be a part of your prayer life.
- The promise here is not that God is going to reach down and manipulate the circumstances of your life or anyone else's, but that your heart and mind will be kept in the peace of God.