

Philippians 4:6-7

sec 3. “Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one special part of religious worship, is by God required of all men: ...”

A. All men, women, & children are commanded to worship God & to pray to Him.

1. **Luke 18:1 (NKJV) – “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray & not lose heart.”**

2. Every man, woman, & child is commanded to pray. Prayer is “required of all men” because God by His nature ought to be worshipped.

a. Prayer is an essential part of worship; therefore, all men ought to pray.

b. Not seeking God in prayer is a breaking of the 1st commandment— **“You shall have no other God’s before Me” (Ex 20:3).**

B. **Phil 4:6-7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

1. To go on suffering in your anxiety rather than seeking His face in prayer is sin. Self-reliance rather than reliance or faith upon God is sin.

2. To seek every human counselor yet not seek the help of heaven is sin. It is setting your reliance upon men rather than God.

3. God will condemn men, women, & children to hell because they did not seek His holy face in worship, especially in prayer.

C. All mankind is commanded to keep the Sabbath (Lord’s Day) holy. That duty requires prayer to God as a key part of that worship.

sec 3 “... that it [prayer] may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son, by the help of His Spirit, according to His will,...”

A. **Jn 14:13 “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”**

B. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit when you pray. **Rom 8:26-27 “The Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; & He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”**

C. For prayer to be accepted by God, it must be “according to His will.”

1. James said, **“...You do not have because you do not ask. You ask & do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures” (4:2-3).**

2. When we pray, we ought to examine our motives & use discretion when we go before the throne of grace to pray.

sec 3 gives us further guidance how we ought to pray:

1. “with understanding”— this is also in connected to the call to pray “if vocal, in a known tongue.”
2. reverence – **Eccles 5:2** **“Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven & you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.”**
3. humility – Jesus said, **“Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; & whoever humbles himself shall be exalted” (Mat 23:12).**
4. fervency & faith – → Turn to **Ja 1:5-8**
6. love- prayer should include expressions of love or adoration to God.
7. perseverance- Jesus gave at least 2 outstanding parables regarding perseverance in prayer:
 - a. The widow & the unjust judge in **Lu 18:1-8**
 - b. The friend asking for bread at midnight. → turn to **Luke 11:5-8**

sec 4- “Prayer is to be made for things lawful;...”

- I believe this further defines prayer that is “according to His will.”

sec 4- “Prayer is to be made... for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter: but not for the dead,”

1. Regarding prayer for those “that shall live hereafter,” Jesus prayed for us over 2,000 years ago in His high priestly prayer in **Jn 17:20**. After praying for His living disciples, Jesus prayed: **“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word.”**
2. Scripture never instructs us to pray for the dead to free them from purgatory.
 - a. There is no proof that such a place exists.
 - b. Scripture teaches that fate of those who died is sealed.

sec 4- We are not to pray “...for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned the sin unto death.” → G. I. Williamson’s *The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes*, p214

Review & conclusion: