

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 183

Main Point of Text: Paul commands prayer for people from all walks of life so our walk in this life is peaceably sustained.

Sermon Point: *Pray for the Living.*

Move 1: Especially pray for those living for the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth.

LC: “for the whole church of Christ upon earth”: **Eph. 6:18:** *Praying always ... for all saints:*

- “ministers”: Col. 4:3: ... *praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance ...*
- “for ourselves”: Jacob in Gen. 32:11: *Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother ...*
- “our brethren”: James 5:16: ... *pray one for another ...* Ps. 122:6-9: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem ... For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee ...*

Move 2: Never pray for those who are no longer living on this earth.

LC: “but not for the dead”. David re: Bathsheba’s child in 2 Sam. 12:21-23: ... *thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? ...*

LC: “nor for those that are known to have sinned the sin unto death”: 1 Jn. 5:16: ... *There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.* Total apostasy: first resurrection impossible.

Move 3: Your prayers should be focused on this life, lives to come, and the life to come.

LC: “for all sorts of men living”. 1 Tim. 2:1:

- “for magistrates”: 1 Tim. 2:2: See. 1 Tim. 2:17-20: prayer is spiritual warfare against enemies of Christ’s heavenly rule over earth in Church and State (against anarchy: deathly).
- “yea, our enemies”: Mt. 5:44.

LC: “that shall live hereafter”:

- 2 Sam. 7:29: David’s prayer in response to God’s promise of a people. Ps. 28:9.
- John 17:20: *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;* Christ prayed for you, and so you are living in Christ. Pray for God’s elect.

Conclusion:

Pray for the Living.