

## **WHY CRY UNTO ME? (Exodus 14:15-16)**

### **I. Evangelism.**

- A. Numerous prayers are offered up, hopefully on a daily basis as well, on Sundays in worship asking God to help the congregation grow.
  - 1. This is good and right.
  - 2. We need to pray to God that He will bless the harvest.
- B. The problem is, for there to be a harvest, there has to be reapers (Matthew 9:38).
- C. We, in order for the church to grow, need to start doing evangelism.
  - 1. We need to quit just talking to God about it and start talking to the lost about God and His church.
  - 2. And no, I am not downplaying prayer.
  - 3. I am saying prayer can't be all that we do.
- D. Souls are touched with the gospel, not our prayers to God.
- E. We need to be teaching the lost just as the early church did.
  - 1. They were people of prayer (Acts 2:42).
  - 2. But they were people of action as well.
  - 3. They went out teaching and preaching after they prayed for God's blessing.
  - 4. When they got done teaching and preaching they prayed with thankfulness to God for allowing them to be evangelistic and for the souls that were saved.
- F. Again, there is no down-playing of the role of prayer in our lives.
  - 1. It is vital to our lives.
  - 2. It is a necessity.
- G. This is simply a call to action.

### **II. Repentance.**

- A. Someone may be thinking, Ben, how can we repent without prayer?
- B. You can't (Acts 8:22).
- C. I am keenly aware that we must confess our faults to God in order for Him to forgive them (1 John 1:9).
- D. What I am talking about is the fact that many people pray for the strength to do better and even ask for forgiveness but don't change their lives.
- E. Repentance is a turning from something toward something else due to the fact that godly sorrow has caused a change in their minds (2 Corinthians 7:10).
  - 1. Too many times, Christians pray for forgiveness because they know they need to do so but don't turn from the sin they committed.
  - 2. Repentance most definitely involves a turn (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- F. We need to be people that don't keep doing the same thing over and over again
  - 1. Repentance involves change.
  - 2. Change involves action.
  - 3. Ephesians 4:28 is a great illustration of this.

4. The Corinthians are great example of change (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- G. We can't keep praying when it comes to repentance, we need to take action.
- H. Again, prayer is essential in repentance because we must confess our sins to God, but action needs to take place in order for there to be a change.

### III. Salvation.

- A. How many of you have heard something like this: "Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."
- B. On several occasions as a young person attending various functions associated with denominationalism I heard prayers similar to this.
- C. It has been called the sinner's prayer.
  1. It is based on a belief that one can obtain salvation simply by praying to God.
  2. Notice some statements from a couple of websites (**read from sheet**).
- D. This type of system of salvation began very sporadically about 500 years ago.
  1. It became the norm with Dwight Moody.
  2. It was popularized by a denominational crusader named Billy Sunday and perfected by Billy Graham.
  3. Mr. Graham brought it to the height it is at now through his book "How To Be Born Again."
- E. No one has ever found a single passage of scripture that will point one to prayer as a means of salvation.
  1. As much as prayer accomplishes, it cannot save you.
  2. Not one person recorded in the New Testament was saved through prayer.
- F. The Bible teaches that one must perform actions that lead to salvation which is offered through grace of God shown to mankind through the death of His Son on the cross.
  1. We must hear God's word (Romans 10:17).
  2. We must believe in Jesus as the Son of God (John 8:24).
  3. We must repent of our sins (Luke 13:3 & 5).
  4. We must confess the name of Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10).
  5. We must be baptized into Christ (Mark 16:16).
- G. Praying to be saved is not found anywhere in that plan.
  1. When you read through the book of conversions, Acts, you don't

- see someone praying to be saved.
2. Saul was fasting and praying and he still had to arise and be baptized for his sins to be washed away (Acts 22:18).