

A Christmas Prayer

The Bible says in Psalm 111:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.” It also says in 1 Corinthians 1:27-31, “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us the wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.’” (NIV 1984)

I think that it is right to say that our world is in a mess. North Korea can make a threat and take away our right to free speech. The current administration can trample on the Constitution of the United States without any serious opposition. The United States appeases and makes treaties with dictators and nations that act in direct opposition to our fundamental values of personal freedom, while we abandon our historic allies such as Israel. We give voice and platform to people who constantly seek to divide us over issues of race. We take from those who work to be productive in order to reward those who lack motivation.

Much of business has replaced the concept of, “How may I serve you?” with “How may I take advantage of you?” Wall Street panics with at every decline, and rejoices with every advance, without every recognizing our economy is a house of cards ready to collapse upon itself at the slightest economic breeze.

Our children have little time for outside where they may marvel at God’s creation, for their time is consumed by virtual worlds, media, and often unsupervised and unrestrained communications that lead to their detriment. Parents often neglect their responsibilities to raise their children, entrusting their greatest blessings to the State, and the State-run schools, to teach them the important lessons of life. People fight for the rights of animals and at the same time demand the freedom to take the life of an unborn child.

What is wrong with our nation and our world? There is no fear of the Lord and thus there is a void in wisdom. Relative truth has replaced the wisdom of God in the hearts of the people, even among many who profess Jesus Christ as Lord. So here is my prayer:

Lord God of heaven and earth, forgive us. We have turned away from you, and the clear principles of your word, to run after idols of materialism. Rather than turning to you, we turn to ourselves and fail to acknowledge our most basic need, your hand upon our lives. I ask not that you give us what we deserve, but call upon your mercy, because of your great love for us.

Lord Jesus, I pray for our nation. I pray that you will change the hearts of our leaders, or replace them with representatives that will lead according to your will. Speak to the hearts of the leaders of the world to give them an opportunity for repentance and faith, but if they refuse you, I pray you will take away their authority in judgment.

I pray for our children, Father. Protect them from all evil so that they may become the generation that turns back to you. I ask that you help all of us parents and grandparents to provide the love, direction, discipline, and personal witness our children need in order to become godly adults, who will seek to fulfill your will for their lives.

Give us the wisdom that comes from being in Christ. Lead us by your Holy Spirit. Convict us, guide us, and use us to your glory. Give us the heart and courage to take our stand in this dark world. Protect us, bless us, and keep us to yourself.

I pray for your intervention in the lives of everyone who truly belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, that we may not be taken in by the devil's schemes, but rather live to your glory, honor and praise, so that we may shine the light of Christ in this dark world. Help us Lord, to trust you with all things about which we worry. Help us to live in the confidence that comes with faith. Teach us your ways and equip us for your will.

Lord I also pray for those who have not yet trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Show them their need. Help them to understand the destructive nature of their sin, and to find forgiveness and eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice on the cross. Turn all of our hearts to Jesus while there is still time.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:15-20 NIV 1984)

Father, as we gather with family and friends to celebrate this Christmas season, and we enjoy the festivities and gift exchanges, help us to give Jesus first place in our hearts and minds. For it is in His name I pray. Amen.