

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## The Sinner's Prayer Will Not Save Anyone!

There is much confusion in our world about salvation. For example, followers of John Calvin teach that people are predestined to go to Heaven or Hell, and there is nothing they can do to change that. Catholicism teaches that one must follow some teachings of men not in Scripture to be saved. Much of the Protestant world teaches that all a person must do is believe in Jesus, and he will be saved.

Billy Graham and many in the Baptist faith, teach that to be saved you must believe in Jesus and say the sinner's prayer. Does the sinner's prayer save? Is there a Scriptural example of someone saying the sinner's prayer and being saved? Let us take just a moment to examine what the Bible says about the sinner's prayer and salvation. On Billy Graham's website and in his sermons, he always encourages people to say the following prayer:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. Believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen (www.billygraham.org/SH Steps ToPeace.asp).***

After this prayer, people are left with the impression that they are now saved. While it is not our purpose to attack any person in this article, please understand that this doctrine is not what our Lord said one must do to be saved. The sinner's prayer is a damnable doctrine because it causes people to have false hope in something that the Bible does not teach. Allow me to illustrate. Wherein the Bible do you find the sinner's prayer recorded? Between the following parenthesis are all the passages that teach salvation is through the sinner's prayer ( ). Do you see the point? Friend, you can search the Scriptures from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, and you will not find the above prayer or any prayer like it. Since the sinner's prayer is not recorded in Scripture, it cannot be Jesus' way of salvation.

The Bible teaches that we must do everything by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17). The Apostle Paul said that we must not go beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6). John warned us not to add to or take away from God's Word (Rev. 22:18-19). Please listen very carefully. Nowhere in Scripture will you find an example of one person saying the sinner's prayer and being saved. It is just not there. In fact, the only example we have of a person reciting the so-called "sinner's prayer" is the Apostle Paul. In Acts 9:9-12 we are told that Paul was praying and fasting after the Lord appeared to him on the road to Damascus. Remember that Paul was not yet saved at this point (despite the claims of others). Though Paul, yet a sinner, said many "sinner's prayers" over those three days, he was still not saved. Paul had something else to do to be saved, and so does every person duped by false teachers into thinking that belief and prayer alone will save. What else did Paul have to do to be saved?

In Acts 22:16, Paul was told, ***"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*** Paul had to be baptized to have his sins washed away. Jesus taught, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be save" (Mark 16:16). When people asked Peter what they needed to do to be saved, he said,

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Friend, the Bible teaches that one must hear God’s Word (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of past sins (Luke 13:3), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:10), and be baptized to be saved (1 Peter 3:21). Have you obeyed what God says you must do to be saved? Or have you let men lead you down the wrong path toward un-salvation? We pray that you will consider what has been said in this article and obey God’s will. May God help each of us to conform our will to His!

—Ben Bailey

### ***Prayer Request***

We need to continue to keep **Julie Munoz** in our prayers. She is in rehab at Oceans. Her prescription medication is being adjusted so hopefully this will help her. She needs to be completely well again.

Other members that are in need of prayers:

**Wilene Wright**, who is currently going through physical therapy at Madison Medical Resort. She is in Room #316-B. Wilene welcomes visitors.

**Mary Anchondo** is still waiting to have a coloscopy and liver biopsy test done.

### ***Concerns Update***

**Lindsey Wells** will have bilateral carpal tunnel hand surgery on December 19th. Keep Lindsey in your prayers that her surgery is very successful and her recovery time will be short.

### ***Prayer List***

David Alaniz; Mary Anchondo; Maria Baeza; Irene Balerio; Ameer Blumenauer; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Jon Easley; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Brent Harrell; Lon & Lana Howard; Connie Jimenez; Vanessa Machuca; Leigh Ann McFarland; Keith Mitchell; Milous Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morolez; Inocencio Munoz, Sr; Julie Munoz; Bruce Plyler; K’ Lynn Roberts; Linda Straw; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood; Wilene Wright.

### ***Eisenhower’s Homebound...***

Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw. Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

### ***Events***

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9

### ***Office News...***

Thom Moore will be here on Wednesday to pick up the NMCCH holiday gifts.

The holiday “**Ladies Gift Exchange**” will be held at Bonnie Sorenson’s home at 6:30 pm on Friday, December 8th. Ladies, please bring a finger food and a gift. Come and enjoy the fun, fellowship and food.

For the Ladies: We will be assembling “**Holiday Cookie Gift Bags**” for our elderly members on Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex. Please stop by the bulletin board to sign up for what cookie or cookies you would like to bring for the bags.

## **“December Attended Nursery”**

12/3 Devida & Linda  
12/10 Janis & Emma  
12/17 Sonia & Jaque  
12/24 Julie & Gloria  
12/31 Robbie & Jeanette

## ***Food for Thought***

Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere.

### **Jesus' Family Tree**

Someone said, “Don't shake the family tree too hard because some fruits and nuts may fall out!” I've found that to be true in my own family history research, and it holds true in the genealogy of Jesus too.

I wonder how many people, as they begin reading the New Testament, just skip over the first seventeen verses of Matthew. Whew! All those “begats”! All those difficult names! Why do we care about them anyway?

Among many other reasons, we ought to learn about those people because they show that our God uses less-than-perfect people to accomplish His perfect will

Human wisdom would have Messiah's family tree filled with pure, spotless ancestors. Some people think we shouldn't even mention the character flaws exhibited by some in Jesus' pedigree. However, doing so isn't disrespectful; it's honest! Scripture portrays even its heroes “warts and all.”

“Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar.” (Matthew 1:3). Tamar had been the wife of Judah's two sons, both of whom died. Judah didn't keep his promise to give her to his youngest son when he came of age, so Tamar dressed like a harlot and duped Judah into getting her pregnant. Despite their obvious moral failures God used these people to bring Messiah into the world.

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab.” (Matthew 1:5). Rehab's background as a Gentile and a harlot in no way prevented God from accomplishing His will despite her flaws.

“David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.” (Matthew 1:6). We all know the sad and sordid account of David and Bathsheba. But despite their glaring defects they are listed in Jesus' genealogy.

This doesn't excuse anyone's sin or make it ok! Quite to the contrary, it demonstrates the universal need for a Savior. Jesus came to save sinners. That includes His own blood kin. And it includes you.

—Joe Slater

***“This is a faithful saying and worthy of acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” (1 Timothy 1:15).***

### **December 3, 2023**

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

### **A.M.**

Larry May

Jon Roemisch

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Travis Ruckman

Trini Wood

Craig Wesson

### **P.M.**

Larry May

Cody Wesson

Allen Weakland

Larry May

Tommy Garcia

Jeff Wesson

Don Easlon

### **Lord's Supper**

Scot Straw

Tommy Garcia

Oliver Hernandez

Jackie Perkins

Jacob Carson

Communion

(In Library)

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 — *Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444—*Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983—*Table:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Steve Easlon 260-9716— *Contributions:* Jacob Carson

**Sunday AM**

*“Focus of Faithfulness” (Hebrews 13:10-16)*

**Sunday PM**

*“Antitype of How God Saves” (I Peter 3:21-22)*

**Our Records**

*Bible Class... 64*

*Morning Worship...103*

*Evening Worship ... 53*

*Wednesday...45*

*Contribution...\$5,806.00*