

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Does God Hear the Prayer of Alien Sinners?

No.

We must define the terms “hear” and “alien sinners”

First, we will define alien sinners from the Scriptures. An alien sinner is a person who is amendable to the law of Christ (this, would not include the unaccountable, such as, infants and the mentally retarded). The sinner is an “alien” because he has been “alienated” or “separated” from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). And this person is a “sinner” because he has transgressed or sinned against the law of Christ (I John 3:4). Those who do not obey the Gospel are not Christians (I Peter 1:22-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2 Timothy 2:10; Ephesians 5:23). A person who is outside of Christ and His church is not a Christian.

Second, we will define the word “hear” using dictionary.com: The word “hear” can have different meanings. Sometimes, “hear” can mean “hear” (without an object) “(10) to be capable of perceiving sound by the ear; have the faculty of perceiving sound vibrations, (11) to receive information by the ear or otherwise; to hear from a friend. (12) to listen with favor, assent, or compliance” and thereby acknowledge or grant the request of a person who has never obeyed the Gospel of Christ?

First, let us consider the testimony of the Old Testament. Psalm 34:15-16, which is also quoted in 1 Peter 3:10-12 states: ***“For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile; Let him eschew evil and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”*** The implication is that God hears the prayers of His faithful children. Proverbs 15:29 states: “The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.” In Proverbs 28:9, the Bible states: ***“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”***

Second, let us consider the testimony of the New Testament. John chapter nine records Jesus healing a blind Jewish man. The Pharisees confronted the man who had been healed. In John 9:30-33 the man answers them, “The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.”

In John 9:31, it is true that the blind man was an uninspired man, but he had learned from the Old Testament Scriptures some foundational truths, prayer is one of the privileges of children of God. Prayer is also a spiritual blessing. Paul teaches in that all spiritual blessings are found in Jesus (Ephesians 1:3). If a person is not in Jesus, he cannot have access to God the Father in prayer. The alien sinner is still in his sins and is in rebellion against God. How can an alien sinner address God as Father when he has not become a spiritual child (I Peter 1:22-23)? How can an alien sinner approach God the Father through Jesus as the Mediator when he has not rendered obedience to God (I Timothy 2:5)?

In 1 Timothy 2:8, men are to have qualifications when they lead prayers. They are to lift up holy hands without wrath or disputing. How can an alien sinner have holy hands who has not been sanctified by obeying the Gospel (I Corinthians 6:9-11)?

Is God capable of hearing in the sense that He knows everything that is going on around the world? Yes! God is an omnipresent Spirit (Proverbs 15:3; John 4:24; Psalm 16:1-2). He is sovereign. He is in control of the nations. He removes kings and sets up kings. He is all-wise, all-powerful and all-knowing.

Does God hear everybody when they are praying to Him? Yes, in the sense that God knows everything that is taking place (Hebrews 4:13). God knows what is happening. God hears the “sinner’s prayer” in that He acknowledges what is happening at the moment. But does God acknowledge or request the prayer of an alien sinner? No.

—Ben Bailey

Prayer Request

Please keep **Bill Brown** in your prayers as he had a PET scan done last Tuesday morning, December 11th at the Allison Cancer Center—Midland Memorial Hospital. Pray the test results are good news.

Hector Ramirez, an elder (who also preaches) at Cherry Lane Church of Christ in Midland, underwent exploratory surgery on his brain Monday, December 10th at Midland Memorial Hospital. The doctors were able to remove all of the mass from his brain. Please keep Hector in your prayers as awaits the test results. Let’s pray that all will check out okay.

Charles Wood underwent his second cataract eye surgery on Wednesday, December 12th. The surgery on his first eye went very well. Keep Charles in your prayers that he will have a complete recovery very soon.

Concerns Update

Ora McAfee had tests done on Thursday, December 6th in Lubbock. She was scheduled to get results on the 13th. Continue to keep Ora in your prayers that she will get good results.

Marilyn Upshaw was taken to Encompass Rehab (formerly Health South) in Midland. She is in Room 250-A. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as she deals with several health issues.

Matthew Simmons (grandson of Susan Simmons) is scheduled to have more tests done in Odessa. Keep Matthew in your prayers.

Erica Patino had a tonsillectomy on November 30th. All went well.

Prayer List

Brian Basaldua; Dennis Betts; Elsie Bradford; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Emma Craig; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Wayne Gunn; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Jennifer Jones; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; Albert Stegall; Jack Straw; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Josh Wells; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood;

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; Marilyn Upshaw and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

What prophet asked if a leopard could change his spots?

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...

It was Jeremiah that God said the following to: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart. (Jeremiah 1:5)

Events

Watch *“In Search of the Lord’s Way”* every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)
Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the *“Speaking the Truth in Love”* program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

STF—Group #3 - Please pickup your assignment cards in the library after the services this morning.

Sixteen Things That Cannot be Done

It is helpful to know our boundaries, so that we do not spend our efforts in attempting things that cannot be accomplished.

1. God’s eternal purpose cannot be overthrown (Acts 5:39).
2. One cannot bear good fruit without Christ (John 15:5)
3. No person can keep his sins hidden forever (I Timothy 5:24).
4. No person can live after the flesh and please God (Romans 8:8).
5. A person cannot love God and not love his brother in Christ (I John 4:20).
6. A person cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
7. No one can take anything out of this world (I Timothy 6:7).
8. After dying, one cannot be saved (Luke 16:26).
9. One cannot make God a liar (Romans 3:4)
10. One cannot enter into Heaven by any other door but Christ (John 10:1-9).
11. One cannot enter in after the door is closed (Luke 13:25-27).
12. One cannot avoid reaping what he has sown (Galatians 6:7-8)
13. One cannot be justified by the Law of Moses (Galatians 3:11; 5:4)
14. One cannot be saved by animal sacrifices (Hebrews 9:22; 10:4-12)
15. Man cannot escape death or the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
16. A Christian who is faithful till death cannot lose his reward (Matthew 10:42; I Corinthians 15:58).

Bulletin Digest

December 16, 2018	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	TBA	TBA
Song Leader	Craig Wesson	Cody Wesson
Sermon	David Vestal	David Vestal
Opening Prayer	TBA	TBA
Scripture	Trinidad Wood	Dex Dennard
Second Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Bill Brown
Closing Prayer	Bill Tolbert	Larry May
Lord's Supper (Scripture Reading)	<u>Don Easlon</u>	
West...	Jr. Munoz	Dex Dennard
	Jacob Carson	Communion
	Clint Titlow	(In Library)

East...

Josh Wells
David Ryan
Gary Loving

Other Responsibilities: *Elder :* Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon:* Bill Ryan 272-5507 *Pulpit:* Larry May 638-3990 *Table:* Dex Dennard 296-1582 *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Duties:* Richard Siler 556-2151 *Collections:* Richard Siler 556-2151

Sunday AM

"TBA"

Sunday PM

"TBA"

Our Records

Bible Class... 77

Morning Worship...111

Evening Worship...81

Wednesday...76

Contribution...4,924.53