The Prayers of Sinners

Tony Mauck · John 9:31

INTRODUCTION

- Tonight's lesson… was the result of an article that I read recently written by Kyle Pope.

1 The Healing of the Man Born Blind

John 9:3; John 9:16; John 9:33

- The blind man that we're introduced to has been blind from his birth.
- It was neither that this man sinned nor his parents, but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.
- They can't rejoice in what's happened to this man because of their blindness in regard to Jesus.
- One thing I do know is that I was blind, and now I see.
- Look at the simple logic of verse 33. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.

2 The Blind Man's Statement as a Point of Theology

John 9:31; Psalm 137:9

- We know that God does not hear sinners, but if anyone is God fearing and does his will, he hears him.
- The John narrative is simply telling us a story and parts of the story, and certainly not everything that people say in the conversation is right.
- This is all an inspired text in John chapter 9 revealed by the Holy Spirit, but that doesn't mean that every statement recorded is a thus saith the Lord.
- If God never hears the prayers of sinners under any circumstance, then what do we do when we commit sin when we're instructed to go to God in prayer and ask for forgiveness.

3 A General Statement About the General Course

1 Peter 3:12; Isaiah 59:1–2; 1 Peter 3:7

- He's just making a general statement. A general statement that someone who is on a sinful course and persistent in that kind of a course, God isn't gonna hear him.
- For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.
- Your sins and iniquities have separated you from your God.
- The sincerely striving Christian should have great confidence in the audience that he or she has before God.
- Great inconsistencies in our lives will cause us to not be heard at God's throne.

4 Did God Hear Cornelius's Prayer?

Acts 10:4; Acts 10:48; Acts 11:18

- Here was somebody who was not yet in Christ, where it says in Acts chapter 10 and verse 4, his prayers came up to God as a memorial.
- He was ordered to be baptized in the name of Jesus in Acts 10 and verse 48.
- The word hear is used accommodatively to speak of God's answer or response to prayers.
- What we're really asking is, can God, does God respond only to those who are covenant people? Only to those who are in Christ.

5 What We Do Know and What We Don't Know

Acts 18:10

- Is answered prayer reserved for those in Christ only?
- I want God to respond to whomever he wants to respond. And in whatever way he needs to for their salvation.
- If we don't spend any time in prayer, what difference does it make?
- What we know for sure is prayer is not the means by which one becomes cleansed by Christ's blood.
- We are released from our sins by the blood of Christ when we are baptized into his death.

THE CHALLENGE

I want to admonish those of you in Christ this week to realize what a special thing that we have, that God assures us that we can cast our cares upon Him and come to Him for assistance.

MY NOTES