

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CRS)

S.S. 1 WEEK 2 & 3

Meaning of Prayer

Prayer is a means of communication between man and God. It is the master key that opens the door for the channelling of our request to God. It is the Christian weapon of defence and encouragement. Prayer is a ritual among Christians laid down by the prayerful life of Jesus which taught his disciples.

JAMES TEACHING ON EFFECTIVE PRAYER (James 1:5-8. 5:13-19)

James stated, if anyone lacks wisdom (anything) let him ask God and it will be given to him. He gives to all men generously and without doubting because the person who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. A double minded person is unstable in all his ways and recovers nothing from the Lord. If there is a member of the church who is sick let the elders of the church be called. They should pray over him in the name of Jesus. They should also anoint him with oil in the name of Jesus. The prayer of faith will save the sick man and the Lord will raise him up. God will forgive him any sins he has committed. So, there is the need to confess sins to each other so that healing can take place. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. James used Elijah as an example that he was a man like us, prayed frequently that it should not rain for three years and six months. When he prayed again, it rained and the earth produces fruit.

Types of Prayer

- i. Adoration: Acknowledgement of God's greatness.
- ii. Petition: Asking for personal needs
- iii. Confession: Asking for forgiveness of sins.
- iv. Dedication: Promising to be faithful to God.
- v. Thanksgiving: For grace received
- vi. Intercessory Prayer: Praying for those who cannot pray for themselves.

Reasons why some people's prayer are not answered by God

- i. Lack of Faith in the spirit of the person praying
- ii. Having unforgiving spirit
- iii. Lack of concentration / lack of consistency
- iv. Asking wrongly
- v. Repetition of words
- vi. Prayer for selfish reason / inability to pray according to the will of God.

Conditions / factors that makes prayer effective

- i. **Faith:** Having total confidence / absolute trust in God and his power
- ii. **Righteous Living:** It is purity of heart and life
- iii. **Patience:** Wait for God's time
- iv. **Humility:** Lowliness of heart and absence of pride. When praying, we must submit to God.
- v. **Ferveray:** Seriousness, concentration and sincerity are needed when praying in order to receive answers from God.
- vi. **Perseverance:** Pray without leasing or pray always. Do not lose hop
- vii. Your prayer must be in accordance with the will of God. That is praying rightly
- viii. **Forgiven Spirit:** Pardon whatever wrongs so that God will pardon and hear your prayer.

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S.S. 1 WEEK 4

CHRISTIAN LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

It means how Christian should distinguish themselves through their conducts and life style as they co-exist with non Christians in the community.

**Peter's message on Christian (Believers)
Living among non Christians (unbelievers)
(1peter 1:13-17, 2:9-18, 5:1-11)**

Peter advised Christians to live a life of witnessing for Christ. They should not conformed themselves to the passions of this world rather they should be holy in their conduct as God who called them is holy. He also instructed them to gird up their minds, be sober and set their hope fully upon the grace that is coming to them at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Peter addressed Christian as a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and God's own people who have been called out of darkness into his marvellous light to develop the wonderful deed of God among Gentiles. Before they were no people have not received mercy but now they were God's own people and have received mercy.

Peter went further to tell them to be subject to the governing authorities for God's sake. They were set to punish these who do right. By their good conduct, they will silence the ignorance of foolish men. They should love as freemen but should not use their freedom as a protest for evil. They should honour all men. Servant should respect their master not only to be kind and gentle but to the over bearing. He enjoined Christian to keep some and sober because the end of all things is at hand. They should love one another because love covers a multitude of sins.

INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AMONG CHRISTIANS

(1Peter 5:1-11)

Peter enjoined the elders to tend the flock of God not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those under them but as example of the flock of God so as to be crowned with glory when Jesus is revealed.

The younger ones should be subject to the elders. They should clothe themselves with humility towards one another for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Peter advised Christian generally to humble themselves before God so as to be exalted by him. Cast all your anxieties on him for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devils, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Resist him firm in your faith, trust God and remember that other Christian all around the world are going through these suffering too. After suffering a little while God who called you to his/eternal glory in Christ will himself restore, establish and strengthen you. To him be dominion forever and ever.

Challenges Christian face among non Christian

- i. Victimization, Intimidation, from non Christians neighbours
- ii. Some societal values and acceptable moral standards possess a threat to holy living.
- iii. When Christian resolve not to conform to sin and a worldly standard often leads him to alienation and denial.
- iv. The height and frequency of insult and the injustices meted out to Christian often make it difficult to withstand the urge to retaliate.
- v. Intolerance from non-Christians or disturbances as regards worship and evangelism.

Ways Christians Promote Good Relationship with Non-Christians

1. Participation in community development project with non-Christian.
2. Contribution towards the needs of non-Christian
3. Participation in social activities with non-Christian
4. Accommodation of programmes and activities with non-Christians.
5. Acceptance of non-Christians in Christian situation eg. schools one

Examples of Christian's daily life to support

That they are chosen race.

- i. Submission to God and obedience to his commandments.
- ii. Respect for school authorities
- iii. Knowing God in everything and giving him all the glory for achievements and success.
- iv. Giving service to the needy and to the poor
- v. Assisting the security agents when it is possible.

SOCIAL VICES IN OUR SOCIETY

- i. Bribery and corruption
- ii. Embezzlement
- iii. Sex perversion
- iv. Armed robbery
- v. Abortion
- vi. Divorce
- Vii. Hoarding
- viii. Examination malpractices.

Christians can fight these social vices by:

- i. Living by example
- ii. Create job opportunities where idle hands can be employed.
- iii. Opening schools to help give the youths the desired character training for successful life.

How Christians can abstain from social vices.

- i. B being prayerful
- ii. Reading our bible to know what God says
- iii. Be contented with yourself
- iv. By having self control
- v. Avoid bad friends.

Various pressures that lead Christians to sin.

- i. Mad ambition to get rich
- ii. Bad company
- iii. Lack of contentment
- iv. Sickness
- v. Poverty
- vi. Love of the world

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CRS)

S.S. 1 WEEK 6

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

Meaning of Persecution: Persecution means cruel punishment, oppression, humiliation, rejection, maltreatment etc which can sometimes lead to death. Christians encounters persecution as a result of their belief or faith.

**Peter's Message to Christians under Trials and Persecution
(1Peter 1:3-17, 4:12-19).**

Peter commenced by drawing the mind of Christians to the fact that they have been born anew, they should live in hope of an imperishable inheritance kept in heaven. He reminded them that the present trials they are suffering is for a while and such suffering tests, the genuineness of their faith, which if found will be to God's glory. He advised Christians to rejoice in their suffering for it gives assurance of the

reward of eternal life for souls. Peter exhorts them to gird up your mind and be sober as you wait for the grace which is yours as Jesus is revealed. For Christians to be saved, they should not conform to the passions of their former ignorance. As he who called them is holy, they should be holy themselves. Since God is impartial judge, Christians should conduct themselves with fear under present suffering in exile. The trials are meant to prove Christians. If they are reproached for the name of Christ, they should count it all joy. They should not be ashamed instead, they should not be ashamed instead, they should glorify God. But let them not suffer as murders, thieves or for any wrong doing. For if the judgement should begin with those who call upon the name of God, the fate of unbelievers would be terrible

The virtues which Christian should manifest to show their joy

1. They should not confirm to the passions of the world.
2. They should remain sober and hopeful of the glory and salvation that would come when Jesus would be revealed.
3. The fear of God should be watch ward because God is an impartial God.
4. They should always praise God both in living in sadness and Joy.

Types of persecutions / trials Christians may encounter today.

- a. The state restricting their use of the media such as Radio and television
- b. Discrimination in job and scholarship allocation
- c. Prohibition of open air crusades
- d. Disturbance in worship services
- e. With holding privileges e.g acquiring of state level.

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CRS)

S.S. 1 WEEK 6

Impartiality

Meaning of impartiality: It means equal treatment of person's no matter their racial group or social status partiality on the other hand, means discriminating or making of distinctions among persons.

God's commandment says love one another partially does not show love but hatred. Partiality is a sin before God and should be avoided by Christians. All human beings are equal before God and should be treated equally.

James warning against Prejudice/Partiality (James 1 - 13)

James advised Christians to do away with any act of partiality in the church or elsewhere because they hold the same faith in Christ Jesus. James stated, if a rich man well dressed comes into an assembly and is given attention by assigning seat to him and a poor man in shabby clotting is ignored by telling him to stand there or sit at my feet. You have discriminated or made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts.

He warned them not to give room to favouritism. For God closes those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. It is the rich who oppress and drag the poor to court and make sure that they don't obtain justice. They also blaspheme the name of the Lord.

James advised Christians to obey the royal self. If they fulfil it, they have acted well but if they continue to show partiality, they commit sin and are convicted by law as sinners/ transgressors because whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one has become guilty of all. He admonished us to speak and act as those to be judged under the law of liberty. Judgment is without mercy on one who has shows no mercy.

Example of Partiality in our Society

- i. The rich are given the first position in the church
- ii. Best jobs are given to those who know people.
- iii. Denial of promotion to those who deserves them
- iv. Wrong appointments to official positions
- v. Special schools for the privileged class
- vi. Uneven development abound in our country because of partiality.

The effects of partiality in our society

- a. Partiality brings disunity and mistrust among various groups
- b. It discourages merit and promoted mediocrity
- c. Partiality encourages sycophancy and praise singing
- d. It discourages hard work and diligency to duty
- e. It also discourages uprightness and good morality since the innocent is declared guilty
- f. It encourages bribery and corruptions in the society

Ways impartiality is promoted in our society

- a. Using of mass media in protesting against partiality
- b. Using strike down action to protest against partiality
- c. Members of society should not give room to ethnic and religious prejudicial
- d. Practical living in living by example.
- e. Every members of society should be allowed to exercise his/her rights.
- f. Social amenities and government revenue allocations should be distributed evenly.
- g. Use of assembly men/women and union leaders to correct this in the society.

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CRS)

S.S. 1 WEEK 8

RESURRECTION

Meaning of Resurrection: It means coming back to life after death to live forever. It also means victory over death.

Paul's Teaching on Resurrection to the Christian in Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:1-50)

The Corinthians Christian doubted the reality of resurrection from the dead. Paul therefore explained to them the possibility of the resurrection of believers on the final day using the following argument. Paul explained that since Christ died and resurrected it means that his followers would equally resurrect in the last day. He pointed that Christ resurrection was in accordance with the scripture and that he died for our sins. After his resurrection, he appeared Cephas (Peter) to hundred brethren at once, to James, to all the apostles and to me, one, was untimely born.

Paul referred to himself as the least of the apostles unfit to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church. But he worked harder than any of them, he did not boast on his own effort but grace of God which is with him.

Paul wanted to clear their mind by saying that if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can they doubt the resurrection of the dead, if Christ has not been raised our preaching is in vain and our faith is also in van/furtill and we are still in our sins. If Christ has not been raised, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. He stated, if for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Paul assured them that Christ has been raised from the dead he is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. He further stated that the baptism in the name of Christ would not have been necessary as people could have been baptized in the name of the dead. He would not have embarked on the missionary work that was full of danger thus he asserted, I die every day and fought with beast at Ephesus on the resurrection because of his love. He would have encouraged people to eat and drink for tomorrow we die. He warned Corinthians Christians not to be deceived by people who deny the resurrection saying that bad company corrupts good morals. As by one man (Adam) death entered the world but through one man's obedience came resurrection (life giver).

But some may ask, how will the dead be raised, what kind of bodies will they have? The seed planted first dies before it grows, God gives it a new body. There are celestial and terrestrial bodies each having a different glory from the other so, it is the way for the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in perishable, it is raised in imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown in physical body, raised in spiritual body.

Paul further stated, we shall not all die. The trumpet will sound, we shall all be changed. The dead will first rise with imperishable and the living shall be changed. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, there comes the saying, oh death, where is your victory and sting, the sting of death is sin.

He encouraged the Corinthian believers to be steadfast, immovable and continue to work for God knowing that our labour is not in vain.

The Significance of Jesus Resurrection to Christian

1. The resurrection of Jesus assures Christians of the hope of eternity.
2. It is the basis of Christian faith
3. Without resurrection, the preaching of the gospel is in vain

4. By resurrection. It means that death is not the end of everything but a transition.
5. With resurrection Christians are assured of life after death.
6. It gives us hope that all believers will resurrect.
7. by it, Christ has overcome sin and death and all the forces of evil in the world

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Parousia)

The signs of the Parousia (I Thess. 4:13-18, II Thess. 2:1-12)

Paul admonished Thessalonians believers not to grieve for the dead as people without hope do. They believed that Jesus died and resurrected likewise those who have fallen asleep will rise again on the last day. But are asleep. The Lord will come with a cry of command and coupled with the arch angels call and the sound of the trumpet. Those who died in Christ (fallen asleep) will rise first. The living will join them in the cloud to meet Jesus. Paul advised them not to be quickly shaken in mind in respect of the coming of the Lord/Comfort one another.

The day of the Lord will not come until rebellion led by the man of lawlessness come to pass. The activity of Satan will be with power, pretensions signs and wonders and deceptive of those who are to perish. Those who refuse to love the truth and be saved, are deluded, they shall be condemned.

The Preparation of the Second Coming of Jesus (I Thess. 5:1-11)

Paul taught the Thessalonians believers that they should not be concerned about the time or the season Christ will return. But he will come like a thief in the night, that time, people will be saying there is peace and security but unfortunately, sudden destruction will overtake them as travail comes upon a woman with child. He reminded them that they were not a darkness but sons of light therefore they should not be afraid and not sleep as others do rather they should be awake and be

sober. They should put on the breast-plate of faith and love and a helmet, the hope of salvation. This means they should increase their faith in the Lord as they wait for the second coming of Christ. The hope of salvation motivate every Christian to prepare for the Lord's coming. Christians are to encourage and build one another up, explaining why preparation should be made for the second coming.

Significance of the Second Coming

- i. The second coming is the time when God will intervene in world affairs
- ii. It is the day of punishment for sinners and reward for faithful believers.
- iii. The day Christ will judge sinners and set up his eternal kingdom
- iv. The day God will defeat all the forces of evil.