

Prayer

4/3/23

Page 9

1. Why do Catholics pray to Mary?

- The early Church prayed to Mary
- Catholics don't think that Mary is divine
- Catholics think that the prophets and Mary intercedes for us and talks to God
- They would say you can talk to God but Mary and the prophets are continuously going to God on your behalf
- They will say its no different than asking people to pray for you here on earth
- Catholics will say that a prayer that is being brought to God through multiple people will be more likely to get Gods attention
- Scripture doesn't back this line of thinking up
- Lets look at some of the issues with this logic
- Did Mary physically die?
- God tells us that we are not to contact dead people **Leviticus 20:5-7,**
Deuteronomy 18:10-14
- Anyone who dies is not here and present on earth
- In the New Testament we are to test every spirit and see if it is from God – 1 John 4:1
- We have direct communication with the father – Isaiah 8:19-20
- A lot of Jesus's family didn't understand him - **Matthew 12:46-50**
- Why Go to Mary when you can talk directly to God
- The veil was torn on 2 – Luke 23:44-47

2. Is praying the rosary scriptural?

- The word rosary means, crown of roses
- Today in Catholic church you can see Mary pictured with a crown of roses
- Just like most things in Catholicism, they like to have physical things to remind them of what happened
- The rosary is a 59 beaded necklace with a cross pendant
- The purpose of the beads is so that you don't lose your place of where you're at
- The priest of the Catholic Church blesses it
- The rosary is 4 different prayers and will change on a weekly basis
- The rosary is prayed to Mary and to God
- Mary is thought to intercede on our behalf
- The rosary is the same Prayers being said every week
- It takes anywhere between 15-25 minuets to pray the rosary
- The rosary isn't found in scripture
- Catholics will agree with this but they say that it drives from the early Church

Prayer

4/3/23
Page 10

- Monks in the early Church started praying 150 psalms
- People who didn't know how to pray the psalms prayed 150 hail Mary's
- This then grew and took more effect until we get what we have today
- Today you would have to pray the rosary 3 times to complete what the early Church was trying to do
- Why is this wrong?
- Prayer is just talking to God – Ephesians 6:18
- Prayer is growing in your relationship with God- 1 John 5:14-16
- Prayer isn't reciting the same thing for the 100th time for better standing with God
- The prayer is genuine should come from the heart – Romans 8:26
- The rosary isn't scriptural and isn't what we should be praying

3. Common obstacles in prayer

a. Lack of faith

- If God cant do something then why pray to him – Proverbs 15:29
- Normally this response comes out of someone who hasn't gotten the answer that they wanted

b. Not wanting to confess sin

- Often, we don't want to repent so prayer becomes something that gets pushed to the side
- This is something that builds and only gets better when you turn back to God - Psalm 66:18-19
- There is no secret you can keep from God, he knows all

c. Time

- I don't have enough time on the day to pray
- We make time for what is important
- If God is #1 importance in your life it will show by how much time you spend with him
- Time is something that we all want more of, but the answer isn't having more of it but using the time that we do have better

d. Distractions

- They are all around us, everywhere is a distraction
- There isn't anything that should come between you and prayer
- Find a distraction free place

“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart. ”

— John Bunyan