

## Put Your Trust In Jesus Christ

### TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is written in regard to the two "Prayer To The Blessed Virgin" which have appeared in the paper recently (April 29 and May 10).

Jesus was sent by the heavenly Father to reveal the love that the Father has for all men. Jesus taught us how to pray to the Father, in what is commonly called the "Our Father." This passage, in Matthew 6 is not primarily a prayer Jesus wanted His disciples to recite, but a guideline to follow so that they would not fall into the same condemnation as the hypocrites and the Gentiles described in verses 5-7.

How did the hypocrites prayer offend God? They prayed publicly, to be seen by men. This prayer to the Blessed Virgin states, "You must publish and it will be granted to you." Jesus taught, "You are not to be as the hypocrites . . . go into your inner room . . . shut your door, pray to your Father, who is in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you." (Matthew 6:5, 6.)

The Gentiles' prayer offended God by using meaningless repetition because they thought God would answer them if they used many words. This prayer to the Blessed Virgin requires certain portions of the prayer to be repeated "three times" and the entire prayer to be repeated for "three consecutive days." Jesus taught, "Do not be like them (the Gentiles); for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him." (Matthew 6:8.)

In the Our Father, Jesus teaches us that believers have direct access to a loving heavenly Father who cares for us, our daily needs, our forgiveness of sin and our struggle with temptation and the forces of evil. The Prayer To The Blessed Virgin ascribes this same love to Mary, with phrases like, "Oh, Holy Mary, mother of God, queen of heaven and earth," "splendor of heaven," "help me and show me here you are my mother," "Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us." However, Mary is not the mother of God; she is not the mother of Jesus' divinity, but of His human body. Mary did not need to be sinless to be Jesus' mother. The Holy Spirit who overshadowed Mary and brought about her miraculous pregnancy was sinless. Jesus is not of Adam's seed, but of God's seed. (Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:35.)

The Old Testament forbids the

worship of the queen of heaven in Jeremiah 7:18, 19. My Catholic bible has a footnote which refers to this queen of heaven as Istar, the goddess of fertility. Another book, "World Religions," shares: "In Babylon alone there were 180 open-air shrines, where she (Istar) could be addressed by prayer or votive offerings." (Page 117.)

Jesus Himself does not refer to Mary alone as His mother, but refers to all those who do "the will of His Father, Who is in Heaven," to those who, "hear the word of God and do it." To these Jesus turns and says, "my brother and sister and mother." (Matthew 12:46-50, Luke 8:19-21, Mark 3:31-35.) A similar account occurs in Luke 11:27, 28, when a woman cries out, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts at which you nursed." But He (Jesus) said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it."

It is the Godhead, the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, that work together to answer the believers prayer according to God's will, the believers benefit and God's glory. Peter wrote, "Humble yourselves . . . under . . . God . . . casting all your anxiety upon Him . . . the God of all grace . . . will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:6, 7.) "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:2, 3.)

Jesus taught, "and whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son . . . and I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth." (John 14:13-17.)

Paul wrote, "the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us . . . according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26, 27.) Read, also, Hebrews 13:5 and Romans 8:28.

Jesus said the first and greatest commandment is, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . all your soul . . . all your mind." (Matthew 22:36-38.)

Please read the first epistle of John 1:1-10 and 2:1-6. Then read King David's prayer in Psalm 51:1-9, which has never been known to fail him. Put your trust in Jesus. (John 14:1-6.)

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5-24-96