

YAIY NEWS



Who Do We Pray To?

During a recent Bible Study, we looked at the letter written to the people of Ephesus. It's noted to be one of The Prison Epistles, as it is believed to be written during one of the times Paul was imprisoned. The other Prison Epistles (letters) are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

One scholar (Dr. Ryrie) had noted "there is an absence of controversy in the epistle." This was a delightful thing for me to see personally in the introduction to this letter in Ryrie's Study Bible, before even getting into the letter, as there was a little bit of an uproar on the topic of "Who Do We Pray To?" during a previous Bible Study.

Striving for Peace

While we do strive for peace, especially in the assemblies (in the Messiah and in the Spirit), it is not unusual for controversies to arise. Recently, we had a controversy on the idea we can and should pray to the Son; and that, by doing so, we will be spiritually uplifted and blessed.



Truth be told, there is a lot of good information about Who Yahshua is, and what Yahweh has done for us through Him. One of those things is peace and overall wellbeing, along with countless other things we are blessed with from Yahweh's Word.

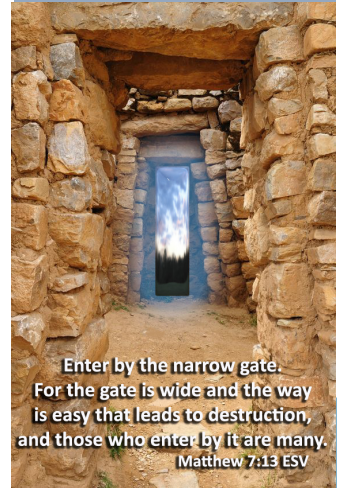
Yet, we are not excused from the daily struggles and troubles that do arise, through which we are given the opportunity to overcome and build proper character in Messiah to Yahweh's esteem. In all, we look to magnify Yahweh and not ourselves. We allow Yahshua to walk in us, and we conform to Him in the Spirit. All of this helps produce peace.

The Father and The Son

The letter to the Ephesians is a powerful testimony to the separation (and the unity) of the Father and the Son. In other letters, which the Apostle Paul authored, we see he often mentioned the Father and the Son as separate Beings. That is how many of them start out. But, this let-

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Yahweh, the Father of
our Master Yahshua
Messiah when we
pray for you,

Colossians 1:3 ESV



Enter by the narrow gate.
For the gate is wide and the way
is easy that leads to destruction,
and those who enter by it are many.
Matthew 7:13 ESV

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ter to the Ephesians is special because he places much more emphasis on its introduction by giving instruction as to Who is Who and what it is that They do for us.

For example, all blessings are from Yahweh and through Yahshua, *Blessed is the Elohim and Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah, Who did bless us in every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah*, Eph. 1:3 YLT.

Paul continues to teach that Yahweh has predestined us to Himself, through Yahshua, *even as He [Yahweh] chose us in Him [Yahshua] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him [Yahweh]. In love, He [Yahweh] predestined us for adoption as sons [sons of the Father] through Yahshua Messiah [the Son], according to the purpose of His [the Father's] will*, Eph. 1:4-5 ESV.

On a personal level, for us, we should note that love, holiness, and being blameless are intrinsically connected together with each other. You can't truly have one without the others. And, no, this is not a lesson of the so-called trinity.

The letter continues in verse 6 to point to the Father having blessed us, in the Beloved (the Son).

Why is Paul emphasizing all of this? Why would the Spirit of Yahweh inspire Paul to just go on and on, which he does, showing the differences of Yahweh and Yahshua in this first chapter?

While some of the "He," "His," and "Him" could be proposed for either the Father or the Son, the point is, there is a separation, while still having unity of goals, purpose, intent, etc. Obviously, in all of this, "His will" is speaking of the Father. But, also, His will is being done through the Son (Eph. 1:9, 11). Read the first chapter and see if you can see the differences, as well as the unity of the Father and the Son. Especially, His will being worked out through the Son.

Headship

Paul, in another letter, wanted to relate to the brethren in absolutely clear language, the Father is above the Son. *...I want you to understand that Messiah is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and Elohim is the head of Messiah*, 1 Cor. 11:3 NASB.

We can see, in other Scripture, this same order of the Father over the Son, related in an analogy of Wisdom, in which, Wisdom is an obvious reference to the Son:

Yahweh possessed [i.e., obtained, as in begotten] me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed, when He set for the sea its boundary so that the water would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth; then I was beside Him, as a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, Prov. 8:22–30 NASB.

We understand the *Logos* (Word) of the New Testament is the *Debar* (Word) of the Old Testament (John 1:1-3).

It's clear that Yahweh provides for us, and loves us, with a love a Father has for His children. We are under Yahshua, as Yahshua is under Yahweh.

Praying to The Father

Why is it important that we point out the differences, as well as the unity among our Father and His Son? It's the same reason, I personally believe, Paul was inspired to write what he did in the letter to the Ephesians. A letter, believed to have been written, knowing it would be copied and shared, as Dr. Ryrie also at-

tests to, by pointing out, "Several things indicate that Ephesians was a circular letter, a doctrinal treatise, in the form of a letter, to the [assemblies] in Asia Minor. Some good Greek mss. omit the words 'at Ephesus' in 1:1. ...and it does not deal with the problems of particular [assemblies]. Since Paul had worked at Ephesus for about three years and since he normally mentioned many friends in the [assemblies] to whom he wrote, the absence of personal names in this letter strongly supports the idea of its encyclical character. It was likely sent first to Ephesus by Tychicus (Eph. 6:21-22; Col. 4:7-8) and is probably the same letter that is called 'my letter...from Laodicea' in Col. 4:16."

Paul, in this doctrinal type letter, continues to emphasize the differences and the unity of the Father and the Son. Their positions, and Their authority. He then, in dramatic penmanship of the order in which it is written, shows without question, Who he bows his knee to and Who we are to pray to. *Because through Him [the Son] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit*, Eph 2:18 TS.

Now picture, if you will, the body of Messiah, which Paul speaks of describing from the head to the feet. While we are all in the body, we together with Messiah in us are under Yahweh the Father in His Spirit, and together, kneel before the Father as we pray through the Son in the Spirit.

Reading further Paul, as he often does, explains himself, by saying, *...I bow my knees unto the Father of our Master Yahshua Messiah*, Eph 3:14 YLT. It's clear that prayer goes to the Father, though the Son. He does not just say this for himself. He says it for all the brethren everywhere, in all the assemblies:

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Master is. [same as the Father's will, John 15:8-10], and do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Master; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Master Yahshua Messiah to Elohim, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Messiah, Eph 5:15–21 NASB.

In Messiah

If the Messiah is in you and walking in you, you will do as He did. He Himself pointed to the Father, and said, *This, then, is the way you should pray: "Our Father Who is in the heavens, let Your Name be set-apart,"* Matt. 6:9 TS.

Paul, in thinking about what he has already said, also said, *Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Messiah*, 1 Cor. 11:1 NASB. What did the Messiah do? He defaulted to the Father, in prayer, and in worship, even asking, *...Why do you call Me good? No one is good except Elohim alone*, Luke 18:19 ESV.



There is much more that could be shared, and it just so happened that we picked up and ran our Mini-Study called, "The Meaning of Prayer," this last month for the Study in Focus online, which also just happens to cover this doctrinal issue in more detail.

Coincidence? Is our life in Messiah and respect for both Him and His Father a coincidence? Not at all. Neither is refuting false doctrines. And we do so by the very Word of Yahweh, in the Father's Holy Spirit.

We go to the Throne, established from eternity, and have access through the Son (at His right hand, Eph. 1:20) to the Father, Who currently sits on that Great Throne above all (Dan. 7:9, 13).

Read through the book of Ephesians and ask the questions, "Who do we pray to?" and, alternatively, "Who do we go through in prayer?" It's two different answers, just as Paul, and Yahshua (John 14:6), emphasized for the assemblies.

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Did You Know?

The first two books of the Torah, actually read Torah in the Hebrew every 49th letter (multiple of 7s), and the last two do the same, except in reverse, pointing to the middle book of Leviticus. It has every 7th letter spelling out Yahweh's Name. Amazing!

Late Landscaping

With some help from our video editor, David Choate, we were able to finish up some needed landscaping. Brother Dale Pedrick had originally laid the foundation for the cedar mulch way back in March.

Elder David Brett was on hand with pitchfork and coveralls for the cold weather. Praise Yahweh for helping us get this done before any snow came in. We are grateful for His provisions provided through Yahshua our Savior and soon coming King.



Prayer List

Elder Dick Vaow , Hap Tew, Michelle Love and Family, Dolores Parker, Terrell Frasure, Lois McDonald, David & Barbara Creel, David Jones Jr. and Family, Charlie Pelton, Robert Dorchester, R.C. Fernald Family/Friends, Gary and Lanai DuBois, Dan & Geri O'leary, Karen van Schalkwyk, Frances Rodgers and Family, Diana Abbot, Stella and Sean Rogers, Loretta Reyes and Family, Robert Creech, Cindy Gustke, Elder George J. Baptiste, Patrick Roether, Elder Lionel and Sandra Gets, Danny O'Connor and Family, Deborah Grouwstra, Rina van der Merwe, Charmaine Potgieter, Maria Barnard, Jaco van der Merwe, Julian Aguero, Michael Potgieter, Carroll Isdell and Family, Ivenia Wayland and Family, Juan Castaneda and Family, Diana Murphy, Rina van Schalkwyk, Annari van der Merwe, Michael Johnson, Marilyn White, Samuel Snyder and Family, Hartwig Fleischmann and Family, Melanie Coetzee, David Butts, Lance Bullock and Family, Katherine Donias, Melanie Killiebrew, David Wilson, Jordan Vira and Family, Leonardo Drisdell, Sheila Hurtado, Eric Perkins, Deborah Brock, Leonardo Drisdell, Donnie Miller, Craig Knudson, Jerusalem and all of Israel.

