

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Please comment on John 9:31

By Kevin Cauley

The context for this statement begins in chapter 9:1. Jesus was passing by a man who was blind. He disciples asked Him why this man was born blind. Jesus said it was so that the power of God could be shown. After this man is healed, he is taken before the Pharisees. The Pharisees want to use this man for their own purposes, so they ask him to blaspheme against Christ by 1) saying that Jesus did “work” on the Sabbath, 2) saying that Jesus was not the Son of God. However, the man who was healed does not cooperate with them. Instead, he debates them. During this debate, this former blind man makes the statement in John 9:31. This verse says, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

The original statement that this man makes is not inspired. That is, we have no indication from the scriptures that this blind man who was healed was anything other than just a man who was engaged in a dialogue with the Pharisees. He is not an apostle; he is not a prophet; he is not an inspired teacher; he is just a man who has been healed. So the statement that he makes is not inspired. However, when John recorded this event, HE (JOHN) WAS INSPIRED to accurately record what this man originally said to the Pharisees. So the man’s statement was not inspired, but John’s account of the man’s statement is inspired.

Now, was what he said true? Yes it is true. God does not hear the prayer of sinners. In Isaiah 59:2, we see that sin separates man from God. “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” Notice also what Peter has to say about who God does and does not hear. We read in 1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

Continued on next page ...

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
Reasons to Believe
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Thru the Bible in
52 Weeks - Acts
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Matthew 26:14 - 16
Mark 12:41-44; 14:10-11
Luke 21:1-4; 22:1-6
Judas betrays Jesus
The widow who gave two
mites
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
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Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

“Without Me You Can Do Nothing” - John 15:4 - 5

By Mike Riley

On the night of His betrayal, our Lord spoke the following words to His apostles:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5).

The majority of the world’s religious population are not branches of the true Vine. Yet, many of these folks have accomplished great things that benefit mankind. But our Lord said, “Without Me you can do nothing.”

The scientific world is full of unbelievers in the God of the Bible, yet science has enjoyed remarkable achievements throughout the past two hundred years. Still, our Lord said, “Without Me you can do nothing.”

The education profession is overrun with humanists who say that each individual is his own god. More people in the world today are being educated than at any time in the history of man. Yet, Jesus said, “Without me ye can do nothing.”

Since so many folks from all walks of life who are not Christians have accomplished so many seemingly great things in life, was our Savior incorrect when He said, “Without Me you can do nothing?”

Without Me You Can Do Nothing ... That Lasts

No, not at all. The above achievements are merely fleeting moments — none of which have any eternal value. In order for what man does to be acceptable before God, it must be pleasing to God, and it must be done by the authority of the Vine (Colossians 3:17).

Those folks who are without Christ are those who have the most difficulty facing the hardships of life. For example, there are more people in this world who are presently under psychiatric care than at any time in history. Suicide is becoming the prevalent “out” for troubled teenagers as well as for seniors. More people are less able to cope with the pressures and problems of life than at any time in man’s history.

However, those folks who are branches of the true Vine, face hard times knowing that they are only sojourners in this world (1 Peter 2:11; cf. Hebrews 11:13, knowing that their citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20). Those who “abide” in the true Vine [Christ – John 15:1; John 15:5), can face the trials and tribulations of this life with the “peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7; cf. Romans 5:1; Colossians 3:15).

The Christian knows that without Christ, he can do nothing (John 15:5). Conversely, he also knows that with Christ, he can do “all things” (Philippians 4:12-13).

Brethren, with this blessed assurance, let us be found “reaching forward to those things which are ahead” — always “pressing toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

Someone may ask the question, “Doesn’t God hear the prayer of sinners who want to be saved?” First, God does not hear the prayer of the sinner in the same way that he hears the prayer of the righteous. God does hear the prayer of the sinner in the sense that God knows all the thoughts of men (Jeremiah 17:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Hebrews 4:13). God wants all men to be saved (2 Peter 3:9) and thus will providentially help the man come to a knowledge of the truth (Acts 17:27). Again, however, we stress that this is NOT the same as a Christian who can call upon God and talk to Him about anything. There is NO BARRIER between the child of God and God, but there is a barrier between the sinner and God.

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Maxine Powell)
- All those affected by COVID-19
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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2021 is in foyer
- February - Carlberg
- March - Rowell, T
- April - Juliano

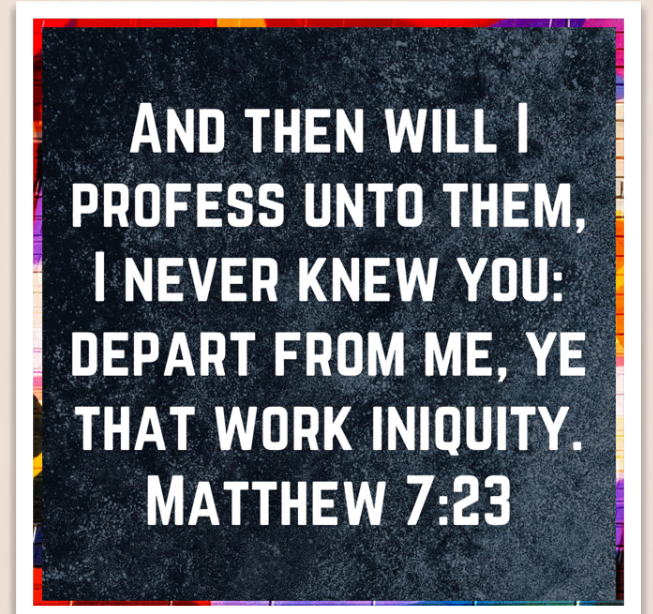
Announcements

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February Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- B.J. Cradic - 2nd
- Decker McKenzie - 22nd
- Julia Juliano - 9th
- Shay Cooper - 28th
- Rick & Jill Carlberg- 14th

Sermon Notes



Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Don Potts
 Scripture Reading - Matthew 7:21 - 24
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord’s Table - Rick Carlberg
 Assist on Lord’s Table - Mark Potts
 Scripture Reading - John 19:1 - 6
 Closing Prayer - Scott Williams

Every Sunday Morning
 @ 8:00 AM
 on WTOK-TV



Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3