Letter From a Roman Dungeon – Session 4 - 2026

Session Two:

Each of us must not just look to our own interests, but to interests of others. Make your mind that which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the nature of God, did not count equity with God something to be exploited, but pored himself out into the nature of a slave, and being born in the human likeness. Then, being recognized as a man he humbly submitted himself into death, even death by means of a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that the Messiah Jesus is Lord to God the Father's glory. (Isaiah 45:23) (Philippians 2:5-11)

1. The "mind" of our Lord – leads to the cross of Christ.
    a. Mind:
    b. The Cross:
2. Emphasis:

Romans 12:1-*2 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your logical worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν τοῦ θεοῦ παραστῆσαι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν θυσίαν ζῶσαν ἁγίαν εὐάρεστον τῷ θεῷ, τὴν λογικὴν λατρείαν ὑμῶν· 2 καὶ μὴ συσχηματίζεσθε τῷ αἰῶνι τούτῳ, ἀλλὰ μεταμορφοῦσθε τῇ ἀνακαινώσει τοῦ νοὸς εἰς τὸ δοκιμάζειν ὑμᾶς τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ θεοῦ, τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ εὐάρεστον καὶ τέλειον.

3. The mind of Christ – the teloi telion-

: Prayer: Thinking into God

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; they love to say their prayers standing in the synagogues and in public places for everyone to see them. Truly I tell you, they have their reward already. But you, when you pray, go into an inner room by yourself, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in private will reward you (openly). In your prayers do not go on babbling in meaningless repetition like heathen do, who imagine that they are more likely to be heard for the lengthy use of words. Do not imitate them! Your Father knows your needs before you ask him.

Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father in heaven, your name be held holy; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth - as it is in heaven. Give us today our needed bread. Forgive us our indebtedness, as we have forgiven those in debt to us. Do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen. For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. For if you do not forgive others for their wrongs, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done. (Matthew 6:5-15/Luke 9:

I am attempting to address prayer as Christ taught it. I refer to the Christian understanding of prayer. Nothing has raised more discussion, disagreement, or pressure in Christian circles than the talk of prayer. The vast majority of believers in Christ are better just talking about prayer or attending seminars on prayer than in actually being engaged in the warfare of a prayerful life. Whenever the subject of individual prayer is raised, it brings silent conviction within Christian hearts because very few of our Lord's saints feel that they have an adequate prayer life. I would like to give you what I believe, as a result of my studies/journey, and are 9 basic rules for praying in Jesus' way. They come at the conclusion of more than fifty years of attempting to understand prayer through the eyes of the Master rather than through church tradition or my own personal needs.

Truth #1: **The ministry of Jesus inaugurates a new way of living the human life. It had been God's plan from the beginning, but we lost this way of living through our departure from God and our turn into ourselves. When we saw Christ, we saw a man whose way of living the spiritual life was difficult to comprehend because we had already defined spirituality different from the way he was living it. Christ used our vocabulary, but with an entirely new meaning.**

1) **Entering The Holy: Living Beyond Ourselves**
   a. Transforming prayer is not panic driven
   b. Take off your shoes (preparation) – stop your walk in this world!!!
   c. The choice is to bring God down or to ascend (Let us go to him)
   d. **A Cosmic Concept:** We can "in this flesh" live beyond ourselves.
2) **The Knowledge About God**
   a. God is beyond the limits of our knowledge and minds
   b. Rediscovery of blasphemy

> Deuteronomy 18:20-22 If any prophet presumes to speak anything in my name that I have not authorized him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. Now if you say to yourselves, How can we discern that a message/prophet is not from the LORD?'– whenever a prophet speaks in my name and the prediction is not fulfilled, then I have not spoken it; the prophet has presumed to speak it, so you need not fear him."

   c. If Jesus is God ... then ... be careful quoting him

Truth #2: **This principle could be stated in many ways. I am to pray in Jesus' name, in his person or nature, or I could say while abiding in Christ. Those who are in Christ are the only ones who can pray in his name or being.**