

# RACE & THE GOSPEL

PRAYER MEETING

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**JULY 29, 2020 | RACINE BIBLE CHURCH**

## **Psalm 96**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

[2] Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

[3] Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

[4] For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

[5] For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

[6] Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

[7] Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

[8] Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!

[9] Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

[10] Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the 2peoples with equity."

[11] Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

[12] let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

[13] before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

## **Prayers from Psalm 96**

That the church would declare God's glory to all the nations through faithful support of mission and mercy ministries.

That God's greatness would be known and praised by all people everywhere.

God's justice, which shall never be moved, will rule and reign over all the earth.

That we will anticipate, and prepare for the coming of the Lord with rejoicing and fear.

The gospel message is that God reconciles repentant sinners to himself and to one another. This is true over every barrier that once divided us —whether ethnicity, slavery, or gender (Gal 3:28).

Pray that our churches will strategically employ gospel outreaches with our Lord's aim to unite a people from every tribe, tongue, and nation (Rev 5:9).

## **Proverbs 3:1–10**

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments,

[2] for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

[3] Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

[4] So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

[5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

[6] In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

[7] Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

[8] It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

[9] Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

[10] then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

## **Prayers from Proverbs 3**

God's perfect word and righteous commandments would guide us in everything we do and say.

We would be people marked by steadfast love and faithfulness every day in every personal interaction.

We will trust in the Lord, and not in our own understanding or in the so-called wisdom of the world.

We will generously honor God and bless neighbor with whatever wealth God gives us.

## **Psalm 32:1–5**

[1] Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

[2] Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

[3] For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

[4] For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

[5] I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

## **Prayers from Psalm 32**

We acknowledge and confess our sin to the Lord.

We have failed to love the Lord our God with all our heart. We have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. We confess these sins and God is faithful to forgive us.

Where we have had attitudes of hostility and hatred, we confess them.

Where we have been worldly and judgmental, we confess this.

## **Matthew 9:35–38**

[35] And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

### **Prayers from Matthew 9**

Praise Jesus for his compassion for us. He not only felt compassion, he did all that it took to rescue us. Jesus bled and died for us. Jesus prayed for his very murderers to be forgiven.

Ask Jesus, by his Spirit, to give us that same compassion.

Ask Jesus, as we move through the streets and stores and neighborhoods in our city, to fill us with compassion toward the precious souls all around us.

## **Romans 15:5–7**

[5] May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, [6] that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [7] Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

### **Prayer from Romans 15**

That God would grant to us to live in harmony with one another. God gives us this by his own encouragement in the gospel.

That we (people who are different from each other in many ways) would glorify God with one voice.

That we will welcome one another as Christ welcomed us. What a standard that is! We know that Christ, who has both welcomed us and commanded us to welcome one another, will do it.

“God, may we glorify You by reflecting Your values among Your people. Let the truth of Your Word be the standard by which we measure right and wrong, and the standard by which we accept people, regardless of skin color, class or culture.”

## **Luke, John, and 1 John about Love**

### **Luke 6:32–36**

[32] “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. [33] And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. [34] And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. [35] But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. [36] Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

### **John 13:34–35**

[34] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35] By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### **1 John 3:16–18**

[16] By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. [17] But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? [18] Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (ESV)



## **Prayers from Luke 6, John 13, and 1 John 3 about Love**

Pray that we will learn to love—really love one another. Love is the greatest power we possess to tear down the walls that separate us, and it is the most excellent way to live with others who are different from us.

Pray that the world will see this love (in actual practice) and be attracted to our Savior.

Pray that we will be delivered from worldly thinking which deceives us into thinking that loving only people in our tribe fulfills the second command. It doesn't. Jesus taught that even unbelievers do that (Luke 6:32). It is only when we love others as Jesus did that we fulfill the law.

Christians are marked by a supernatural, agape, even for enemies, expecting nothing in return kind of love. We continue to ask God to give us this kind of love. It can only come from him.

We know love because Jesus laid down his life for us. So we pray that our kindness, generosity, and open hearted sharing would show the world around us that God's love abides in us.

Pray that the church, in our city, would not be known merely for words and talking but for deeds and truth.

## **Acts 17:24–31**

[24] The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, [25] nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. [26] And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, [27] that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, [28] for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.”

[29] Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. [30] The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, [31] because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

## **Prayers from Acts 17**

Praise God for creating everything in heaven and earth.

Praise God for making, from one man, every person and nation in the world. We know that we are one human race with one God, so we pray that we would realize this in true unity and love in obedience to God.

God is commanding all people everywhere to repent. We pray that we would, first, model repentance in our own actions and attitudes. And also that we would preach this gospel message to everyone.

Judgment is coming to every person in the world. This judgment will be administered by the resurrected Christ. So we pray for fruitful gospel outreach and many genuine conversions.

## **Ephesians 2:11–22**

[11] Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—[12] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14] For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [17] And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [18] For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. [19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (ESV)

## **Prayers from Ephesians 2**

In the church, we are brought near to God. We used to be separated from God but now we are united to him in Christ our Savior. We praise and thank God for this salvation.

In the church, we are one. We used to be hostile to another but now Christ has made us one and made peace.

Our prayers are grounded upon this gospel truth. Just as, in Christ, the hostility between Jew and Gentile is ended by his cross, so too any racial or ethnic hostility today is ended by Christ’s cross. We pray for the realization of this in practice in our churches.

We know that God the Spirit joins us together and grows us into one holy temple. So we pray that this will be seen in our words and deeds with one another.

# NOTES:

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!**

