

PRAYING TO JESUS

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus 's model prayer teaches us we are speaking to "our Father who art in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). Is it therefore always wrong to pray to "the Son," Jesus the Christ?

I. IN PRAYER WE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE (Hebrews 4:16).

- A. Where Jesus, our high priest is seated (Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2).
- B. God's throne - Jesus with the Father (Hebrews 1:8, Revelation 4:1-11, 21:5-8, 22:1).
- C. Receive mercy and find grace because of the sympathy of one who has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- D. In those battles of the flesh, we can address our Lord who became flesh - Paul's example (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

II. STEPHEN PRAYED TO THE LORD (Acts 7:59-60).

- A. He saw "the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God" and declared it (Acts 7:55 -56).
- B. Stoned while "calling on the Lord, saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit' " (Acts 7:59).
- C. Kneeling and cried, " ' Lord, lay not this sin to their charge' " (Acts 7:60).

III. Examples of songs

- A. "Jesus Meek and Gentle" - page 211
- B. "Tis The Blessed Hour of Prayer" - Page 95

Conclusion:

While we generally pray to God, our Father with thanksgiving and needs, (Philippians 1:3-6), there are those occasions when praying to Jesus is appropriate as we have seen in the life of Paul and Stephen.