



**Today's Sermons**  
 Morning: Cutting the Scroll  
 Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	41
Sunday AM Worship	50
Sunday PM Worship	35
Wed. Bible Study	39
Offering	\$1626

## The Thief on the Cross

**Law of Moses was Still in Effect**  
Galatians 4:4 • Matthew 5:7

**Thief Under was Law of Moses**  
Romans 7:1-8 • John 1:17

**Law Nailed to the Cross**  
Colossians 2:13-14 • Ephesians 2:14-16

**Testator Can Ignore Will**  
John 10:28 • Mark 2:10-11

**Testament of No Strength**  
Hebrews 9:16-17 • Hebrews 10:9-10

**Thief a Possible Backslider**  
Mark 1:4-5 • Luke 7:29-30

**Died Before Will Probated**  
Romans 4:14 • Galatians 3:18

"Today You Will be with Me in Paradise."

**New Testament is in Force**  
Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Isaiah 2:2-3

**We Are Now Under Christ**  
Romans 7:1-8 • Galatians 3:23-28

**The Purpose of the Law**  
Galatians 3:19-24 • Romans 7:7

**Inherit by terms of the Will**  
Hebrews 8:8-9 • Colossians 3:24

**Christ's Will Now Effective**  
Hebrews 7:18-19 • Hebrews 9:15-17

**Heirs According to His Will**  
Galatians 3:26-29 • Galatians 4:7

**Examples for Alien Sinners**  
Acts 2:36-41 • Acts 8:35-39



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**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship:...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
 Warm & Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

### John 9:31 and Its Proper Context

Tim Canup

I have often heard John 9:31 misused and even misquoted. The passage does not read, "Now we know that God does not hear sinners' prayer; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him" (all Scripture quotation is from New King James Version unless otherwise noted). We will later notice what it actually says and teaches. What is the context of this verse? To lift this verse out of its proper context is to prove oneself a poor Bible student and to practice improper Bible hermeneutics. To use this verse to teach that God does not hear the prayer of an alien sinner is to lift it out of its context. Later in this article we shall address whose prayers God hears.

The context of John 9 is the healing of the man born blind. After he was healed of his blindness, some questioned if it were really the man who formerly was blind. When he acknowledged that indeed he was the one who had been blind, they questioned him how he received his sight. His friends and neighbors bring him to the Pharisees (verse 13) who question him. Notice verse 16, "Therefore some of the Pharisees said, 'This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And

*Continued Inside*

there was a division among them.” The whole issue they had with Jesus is that He had done this miracle on the Sabbath. By doing so, they believed He had violated the Law of Moses and therefore had sinned.

After questioning the formerly blind man’s parents, they again question him. Verse 24 is of utmost importance to a proper understanding of John 9:31. Notice, “So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, ‘Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.’” Beginning in verse 25, this formerly blind man uses basic logic to answer their accusation that Jesus was a sinner because He healed him on the Sabbath. “He answered and said, ‘Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see’” (verse 25). In other words, although this man did not know Jesus personally or know His heart, he knew that a miracle had been performed on him. He also correctly reasoned, as Nicodemus did in John 3, that no man can do a miracle if he is a practicing sinner. Only God can perform a miracle! God only uses “holy” men to carry out His will, not sinners. He correctly reasoned that if Jesus had sinned by violating the Sabbath law of God, then He would not have been able to heal him. Such basic, simple, and correct logic!

Now notice verses 26-29: “Then they said to him again, ‘What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?’”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, ‘I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?’<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him and said, ‘You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples.’<sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for this fellow*, we do not know where He is from.” These religious leaders were prejudiced against the plain evidence Jesus had given to them. They did not want to accept it from Jesus Himself, let alone from this poor, blind beggar. In verse 30, again he used basic, simple logic, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes!” This man realizes that Jesus must be from God, or at least a righteous man of God, because of the miracle that had been performed on him.

John 9:31 is in the context of this discussion as to Jesus healing this man. The next words out of this man’s mouth were, “Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.” The word “prayer” is not even found in this verse. The word “hear” does not necessarily imply prayer. The word is *akouo* (#191) and means, “to hear; to hearken, listen to...to heed, obey, ... to understand, ...to take in or admit to mental acceptance...” (Perschbacher, 13). This man acknowledged that God would not have worked through Jesus to heal him

if Jesus had been a sinner as the Pharisees accused.

Sometimes, in response to a false teaching, that is, the “Sinner’s Prayer,” we go to the other extreme. Perhaps some have used this verse in an attempt to answer the false teaching of the “Sinner’s Prayer”? Whose prayer does God hear? Those who pray to Him from a pure heart and according to His Will. A Christian can pray to God with unrepented sin in their life or for the wrong thing, and God will not hear that prayer. However, an alien sinner can pray to God to help him find and understand the truth and God will hear him. I truly believe Cornelius is an example of this (if not, why not?). Peter made it clear in I Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers; But the face of the Lord *is* against those who do evil.”

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*“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him” (II Corinthians 5:1-9).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 29 – Song Service
- Oct 6 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Oct 13 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Oct 27 – Song Service with Guest Speaker, Paul Mays
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell