



Jeff Sweeten

# *Thus Saith the Lord* **THE SINNER'S PRAYER**

By Jeff Sweeten

What is "The Sinner's Prayer"? I hear a lot these days about how, when one wishes to turn their life over to God, a person accepts Jesus by saying a "Sinner's Prayer." However, I must admit that for the life of me, I cannot find "The Sinner's Prayer" anywhere in the Bible. The phrases used in the many variations I have heard, read and kept in my files do not come from the Bible.

So, I guess the real question should be: if it did not come from the Bible, where did it come from? It is almost as if someone decided somewhere along the religious line of thinking to add some "feel-good" to their religion, something sincere and sweet. I suspect that verbalizing this "Prayer" is wordsmithed with the intent of making one feel better because they have verbalized their good intentions. But, how does one honestly know whether or not it did the trick? Did it really save you?

Seriously, if there is no Scriptural evidence for the "Sinner's Prayer," what confidence can one have in it? It may be a part of that "experience" that's supposed to give a person confidence that God is hearing that honest (but misguided) soul, and that He's actually doing something that changes the relationship a person has with Him... but, since it is found nowhere in the Bible, one cannot know that it does a bit of good if God does not say so. And, again, it is found nowhere in the Bible.

What the Bible does teach, however, is that our faith in God comes from hearing His word (the Bible, Romans 10:17), and that, based upon that faith, we make a personal choice to repent (change ourselves from the heart to the hereafter, Acts 2:38), and submit in obedience to His Son's directives (cf. Matthew 28:18; John 14:15; Romans 6:17). Therefore, when Jesus utters a simple statement of fact, such as "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16), a person can have great confidence in the Bible fact that one who does this, without addition or subtraction, has done what is pleasing to God and He will reward that person, just as He said He would. You see, God directs us by what He reveals, not by what He has not revealed. Therefore, if one cannot find their faith, or act of faith, in God's revealed Word, that faith, or that act of faith, is not from God.

With no offense intended at all, but only a desire to teach what God has revealed through His Word, to attempt to be saved by saying an unscriptural, anti-biblical "Sinner's Prayer" is nothing but "a wing and a prayer." Again, I mean no offense, but if that is the way you think you "got saved," all you really have is a wing, because you don't have a prayer!

*Thus Saith the Lord*  
is presented by the

## **Park Heights Church of Christ**

1300 E. Boynton St.  
Hamilton  
254-386-3953

### **Schedule of Services**

#### **SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m. Bible Class  
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

#### **WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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