

# Should Christians Pray to Jesus or to His Father?

By Tony Melton

Some folks tell us that Jesus and His Father are one and the same. Consequently, when they pray, they do not pray to the Father in Jesus' name, but rather directly to Jesus. Jesus gave us a model prayer to imitate. He said, "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in Heaven Hallowed be your name" (Matthew 6:9). On one occasion in His personal prayer, Jesus addressed God as "Father" (John 17:1).

Jesus also told His disciples, "Whatever you ask the Father in my name He may give you" (John 15:16). When Jesus was referring to the time after His resurrection from the dead, He told His disciples, "And in that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you" (John 16:23). We are living in the time of which Jesus was speaking; therefore, we should obey Jesus and ask Him "nothing." Jesus said, "Ask the Father in my name."

Paul said that he bowed his knees to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:14). And he commanded Christians, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17). We can only approach the throne of God by way of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is High Priest of all Christians, and He makes intercession for Christians who pray to God through Him. The Bible says, "Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus, without a doubt, is worthy of all the praise, honor and worship individuals can offer Him. However, when it comes to prayer, He wants Christians to pray to the Father in His name.