

Philippians 3:7-21

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the precious gift of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. When we think of all we have achieved and all we possess whether great or small, we count these things as nothing compared to knowing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Father, we want to know more *about* You and Jesus Christ; but even more, we want to know You and Jesus Christ better and more personally. As we study the Scriptures, we pray that the Holy Spirit will explain and apply the words of the Bible to us; so we can better know, understand, and more effectively share the truth of You and Your Word with others—even those who need to come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. We truly seek to know You God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, more affectionately and personally so as to be Your ever-faithful friends and servants.

Lord Jesus, when we consider our past, we admit that we are sinners, and even though we have turned from our sins and have turned to You for salvation we still have regrets. We know that no future obedience of Your commands can ever “make up” for the harm we have done to Your Kingdom, others, and ourselves. We cannot make ourselves righteous. Therefore, we thank You that we can receive righteousness, cleansing from sin, and eternal life from, and that depends on, faith in You—faith that we have by Your grace. We look forward to Your coming again in glory and to our resurrection from the dead according to Your perfect timing. Please help us mature in our thinking and behavior as we prayerfully read Your Word and strive to become more like You. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [*How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer*](#), Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.