



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Praying Through 1 John 3:18-24

Dear Heavenly Father, we express our thanksgiving and wonder to You as we think about Your manifold blessings—undeserved miracles that are new to us and all creation every day. Indeed, You are the Most Holy God and the Creator of all. Today, we express our amazement that You love us and all that You have made; for surely, we are not worthy of Your loving, daily care for us. We are not worthy of existence, for we have sinned against You, and yet You love us—You loved us enough to send Jesus to save us from all we truly deserve from the hands of a righteous God and Judge. We praise and thank You that Your only Son, Jesus, came and upheld Your righteous honor and holiness by dying on the cross in our place as the supreme sacrifice for sinners. As Your children, by adoption, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, please help us to show one another—each one in Your family, each one in the Church—Your love and grace. If we express Your love in words or in speech, please help us to also express Your love in truth and action—that our words and promises would not ring hollow in the ears of those who think from all that they have seen from us in the past that we will not love in deeds and words. Through Your love working in and through us, show others and the world that we are from You, the Truth, the One True God. As we love one another, reassure our hearts that we are truly Your children so we can pray to You with all boldness, especially as we intercede for the needs of others—for those who need Your healing touch, Your tender care, Your loving deliverance. In Jesus' 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 *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* 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 *Verse-by-verse Scripture Handout* 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.

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