

# Daily Prayer

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Today's prayer is based on *Three Ways to Live* from Tim Keller's *gospel in life Grace Changes Everything* 2010 (capitalization follows book cover), page 15.

Lord Jesus, you yourself said

*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*

Lord, I tend to think there are two ways to relate to you -  
to follow you and do your will,  
or to reject you and do my own thing.

I have also heard that there are two ways of rejecting you as Savior.

One I just mentioned, to reject you and live my way.

The other is pretty tricky - it is by *obeying* your law.

That is when I try to be really "right'-eous and really moral,  
so as to *earn* my salvation.

So it turns out there are actually *three* ways to relate to you:  
religion, irreligion - and the gospel.

I confess I have looked to you as my helper, teacher and example,  
but really I was trusting in my moral performance as my savior.

I see now that *both* religious and irreligious people avoid you as Savior and Lord.

*I* was avoiding depending on your grace when I was on my best behavior.

When I am religious or irreligious I am *still* trying to maintain control of my own life  
and look to myself as my own savior, not you.

*Both* my religious moralism and my secular relativism  
turn out to be just different strategies of me saving myself.

Lord I confess that I have had both religious and irreligious phases in my life,  
but I now see that they are essentially the same - and *both* wrong.

I see now that both my sins and my best acts have equally been  
ways of avoiding Jesus as Savior.

Thank you that the call to being a Christian  
is *not* a call to *be more religious*.

Help me to know my own heart, and to say,

Though I have often failed to obey your moral law,  
the deeper problem was why I was trying to obey it!  
Even my efforts to obey it were just a way  
of seeking to be my own savior.

I know the religious repent of sins,

I know the irreligious do not bother to repent.

I am afraid I must repent of *both* my sins *and* my self-righteousness.

Your Word says *If righteousness could be gained through the law,*  
*Christ died for nothing!* and

*You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ;*  
*you have fallen away from grace.*

Lord, help me turn from both my law-breaking *and* my law-relying.

Lord, accept me for Jesus' sake alone, on the basis of *his* record, not mine.

Lord, help me to move my trust from myself to you.

Deliver me from dry head knowledge that isn't saving me.

Give me full-bodied heart knowledge of Jesus in me.

Thank you that the determining factor in my relationship to you  
is not *my* past, but *Jesus'* past.  
Having seen and believed your gospel,  
keep me from reverting to my default mode -  
that my acceptance depends on my performance.  
Please Lord, deliberately and repeatedly re-set me to *gospel* - mode,  
for Jesus and his kingdom's sake. Amen.

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Our prayer must not be self-centered. It must arise not only because we feel our own need as a burden we must lay upon God, but also because we are so bound up in love for our fellow men that we feel their need as acutely as our own. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them.

- John Calvin