IS IT SCRIPTURAL TO PRAY TO JESUS?

Introduction:

1. There are able preachers of the gospel today who affirm that it is right to pray to Jesus.

2. What you and I should be concerned about is -- Does the New Testament teach we are to pray to Jesus?

3. Let us now study the subject.

I. WHAT THE ISSUE IS NOT

1. It is not a denial that Jesus is God.
   (1) The scriptures teach He is Deity (God), just as the Father and Holy Spirit are God.
   
      John 1:1; Heb. 1:8

   (2) Jesus is God in every sense of the word -- John 1:18; 14:9; Col. 2:9

2. It is not whether Jesus is to be worshipped as the Father is worshipped -- He is to be worshipped (this we will show later).

II. THE ISSUE IS:

1. DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORIZE US TO PRAY TO JESUS IN THIS DISPENSATION?

III. TRUTHS WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE GODHEAD

1. There are three persons in the Godhead -- Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9
   (1) Matt. 28:19 -- Father, Son, Holy Spirit ( II Cor. 13:14; I John 5:7)
   (2) Eph. 4: 4 -6 -- One Spirit -- One Lord -- One God and Father

2. There is perfect unity in the Godhead.
   (1) At no time has any person of the Godhead every been out of harmony with the other persons of the Godhead about any matter.
   (2) They are ONE in nature, purpose, and work

      1. John 17: 20 - 22; John 10:30
      2. John 1: 18, 14; 7 - 10
      3. Heb. 1: 1,2; John 16:13

3. All Persons in the Godhead are Active
(1) Each Person of the Godhead has a distinct function in the entire scheme of redemption.

(2) They have separate work that complements the work of each other in all that is revealed to us from Creation to the last day when the resurrection and Judgment take place.

(3) To assign to one person a work that another is said to do is to misunderstand the revealed functions of the three persons of Deity.

1. The Scheme of Redemption
   a. God planned it -- Eph. 3: 9 - 11
   b. The Son executed it -- John 4:34; I Pet. 1:18 - 19; Lk. 19:10
   c. The Holy Spirit revealed it -- John 16:13; I Cor. 2: 9 - 13

2. Christ was made flesh and died for the sins of the world -- John 1:14; I Cor. 15:3; Heb. 2:9
   a. The Father did not die for the sins of the world.
   b. The Holy Spirit did not die for the sins of the world.
   c. The Son, Jesus Christ, died for the sins of the world -- He did what the other two Persons did not do.

3. The work of the Godhead is both unified and diversified.

(4) They have different rank in relationship -- Matt. 28:19
   1. They have perfect Unity, but distinct function, and each person is active.
   2. These Persons do not hold the same relationship to the other.
      a. God is the HEAD of Christ -- I Cor. 11:3
      b. God is EXCEPTED from being under Christ’s authority -- I Cor. 15: 27
         (1) God gave Christ His authority -- Matt. 28:18
   3. The Father will judge the world in righteousness by Christ -- Acts 17: 30 - 31; John 5: 22 - 27
   4. Christ will judge the world by the Word He has spoken by the Holy Spirit -- John 12: 48; Rev. 20:12
   5. The Holy Spirit’s work is: Revelation -- John 16:13; Conviction -- John 16:8; Conversion -- Rom. 1: 16 - 17; and Sanctification -- I Cor. 6: 9 - 11; John 17:17
Jesus Christ is indispensable to prayer.

1. Christ is our High Priest -- Heb. 5: 1 - 2
   a. He is our High Priest who offered His blood for our sins -- Heb. 9: 12,14,24; Heb. 10: 9 - 22
   b. Christ is our High Priest who ever lives and makes intercession for us -- Heb. 7:25
   c. God appointed Him High Priest -- Heb. 5: 4 - 6
   d. He is a High Priest who understands us -- Heb. 4: 15 - 16

2. Christ is our Mediator
   a. A mediator stands between two parties
   b. "One mediator between God and Men" -- I Tim. 2:5
   c. God speaks to man through His Son -- Heb. 9: 15; 1: 1 - 2
      (1) God speaks only through His Son to man.
   d. Man can only speak to God through His Son, Jesus Christ
      (1) Jesus was both God and man -- John 1:14
      (2) He is a perfect mediator

3. Christ is our Advocate
   a. I John 2:1
   b. One who pleads another's cause; an intercessor

III. WE CAN WORSHIP JESUS IN SONG AND IN THE LORD'S SUPPER, BUT NOT IN PRAYER.

1. Songs of praise, exaltation, and adoration are scriptural when sung to Jesus
   (1) Eph. 5: 18 - 21
   (2) Col. 3: 16 - 17
   (3) These verses show we sing to the Lord and give thanks to God, the Father.
   (4) We should not sing songs that teach us to "have a little talk with Jesus"; "Take it to the Lord in Prayer"; or "Tell it to Jesus alone".

2. In the Lord's Supper we give thanks to the Father in the name of Christ -- I Cor. 11: 23 - 24
(1) We remember the Lord Jesus Christ -- His broken body and blood that was shed on the cross for us -- I Cor. 11:23 - 25

(2) The Supper is a communion of the blood and the body of Christ -- I Cor. 10:16

(3) This act of worship is directed to the Son -- we "shew the Lord's death till He come..." I Cor. 11:26

(4) We discern the Lord's body -- I Cor. 11:29

(5) We eat with Him at His table
   a. Luke 22:30; Mark 14:25; Matt. 26:29

(6) We, His servants, have the great privilege of coming together and eating His supper with Him each first day of the week -- servants at the Lord's table remembering what He did for us when He died on the Cross!

CONCLUSION:

1. Prayer is offered to God, the Father.
   (1) Matt. 6: 6 - 9; Lk. 11: 1 - 2
   (2) Phil. 4:6; Eph. 5:20; Col. 3:17
   (3) Matt. 7: 7 - 10; John 14: 13 - 14

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