



THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYER

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ISSUE I



Dr. Kevin Meador

October 7, 1967 December 27, 2022

THE BEGINNING OF THE PRAYER CLOSET UNTIL NOW

My first position after marrying my husband and moving to Newton County was to serve in the area of Admissions, Financial Aid, Alumni and Development at Clarke College, the only Southern Baptist Junior College located in Newton, MS. I had attended Clarke College my first two years of college, graduated from William Carey University, and then attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for one year.

In the fall of 1989, Dr. Kevin Meador was supply preaching at my family church. He asked to speak to me about something one Sunday. I agreed and he shared with me after church that he began a prayer ministry earlier in his ministry, but it had not progressed as he had hoped, so he ended the ministry. He shared that he

believed the Lord was laying on his heart to resume the ministry. He asked if I would pray with him and see what I felt the Lord was sharing with me about it. I told him that I would be happy to join him in praying. If I believed the Lord was inclining me toward this, he asked me to consider joining him in this ministry.

In January 1990, he gave me his first newsletter, which was handwritten. He and I sat down at my desk to type, format and print the first edition of the Prayer Closet Newsletter. We folded and placed them in business envelopes. I hand addressed, stamped and mailed over 30 newsletters. From that first time we began monthly publication of the Prayer Closet. The ministry grew so quickly that we began to utilize a printing company to

print the newsletter while I printed the labels at my home. We then worked to establish Prayer Closet Ministries as a non-profit ministry. God led us to produce newsletters, prayer manuals, and key rings. Dr. Meador's preaching and conference ministry grew so that he was asked to preach and teach in many states. God truly blessed this ministry.

You will see that our Lord called Dr. Meador to his heavenly home in December 2023. I am just now getting this last newsletter processed for publication. The Prayer Closet Board felt that the Lord had called Dr. Meador to establish and lead this ministry. In many ways, Dr. Meador was the Prayer Closet Ministries. With his passing, the board has made the difficult decision to discontinue the ministry. We will continue to make The Prayer Closet Ministry and Kingdom Praying websites available through the remainder of this year. If you would like to download or print any of the materials for your church or personal use, then please do so. After the end of the year, the website and materials will no longer be available. Please take advantage of these materials between now and the end of this calendar year.

We are publishing this last newsletter to honor Dr. Meador, the man who gave himself to this ministry. The next sections of this newsletter will be the messages given at his memorial service. The last item is a video of Dr. Meador's final sermon preached on December 25, 2023 at the First Presbyterian Church in Union, Ms.

Thank you to each of you have had a part in this ministry. I deeply appreciate each of you and your contribution to this our Lord's ministry. May our Lord bless you as you continue to spread the message of our Lord until He calls us home.

Blessings,
Evelyn Williams
Prayer Closet Ministries, Secretary/Treasurer

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Funeral of Dr. Kevin Meador with message by Dr. Jon Martin, December 31, 2022

We all know that Kevin would not want this time together to be about him.. He would want, more than anything else, for us to talk about his Jesus. I want to honor that this morning. But I feel like I have to talk about Kevin for at least a moment.

This Bible. Kevin gave this Bible to me. When I first came to Union to be the Pastor of First Baptist Church, Kevin and I, along with some men in this room, would meet every Tuesday morning at 6:00 AM for a Bible study. I always bought the least expensive Bibles that Lifeway would sell. At the time I was using a Bible, to be honest, I purchases for \$5.00. It was literally falling apart. Kevin looked at me one morning and said, "Son, you need a Bible!" The next week he showed up with this expensive Allan Bible in the English Standard Version and gave it to me.

The Gospel. Kevin taught me so much about the Gospel, especially about the Doctrines of Grace. He made me rethink my theological ideas. He challenged me to not be afraid to believe simply what the Bible taught. I was always amazed at the amount of Scripture that Kevin memorized, the amount of theological understanding that he possessed. Kevin made me think deeply about the things of God, and for that I am forever grateful.

Certainly, this world lost a brother and a son. It lost a preacher of the Word, a philosopher, a theologian, and a man who clearly understood the Gospel of Jesus. Kevin gave his life to the proclamation of the Gospel. He lived to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As I prayed about what to share this morning to celebrate the life of Kevin, I think the Lord has given me a simple message: "The Gospel." I am going to be reading this morning from Romans 3:21-31:

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had

passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

“The most important paragraph in all the word,” is what John Piper calls Romans 3:21-32. I want to share with you a simple message this morning: the Gospel. The Gospel is what brought Kevin in my life and, most likely, what brought him into your life. I am sure that you heard him preach it, teach it, or to comfort you. It was the Gospel that encouraged him to pray for you. The starting point for the Gospel according to Paul is our own personal condition and the failure in the Law to save us. Be sure to note that I said the failure in the Law and not the failure of the Law.

The Failure in the Law: Our Inability (Verses 21, 23)
The stage for this paragraph has been set by the information offered in Romans 3:9ff. It is as simply put as possible: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.”

There is an important distinction here that needs to be made as we begin to understand this Gospel. It is this: The Fault is in us. It is not in the Law, but in our inability, our inability to meet the standards of the Law! Remember that the Law was offered to Moses by whom? By God! Therefore, we cannot look to the law and see any failure or missteps within it. No, the law is perfect, yet we are unable to keep it because of our inability. Paul wrote, “No one understands, no one seeks God.” It is in us that the fault lies.

The beginning point of the Gospel may not sound like good news. The world wants us to believe that men are innately good creatures, that deep down we have good in us more than we have bad so that we are able to make for ourselves a way to salvation. This is not the message of Romans 3, the Gospel, or the New Testament. We know that our sinfulness came into being as a result of the sin of Adam and the Fall of man in Genesis 3. This condition is often called Total Depravity, or as others would say, Radical Depravity. This doctrine gives us the understanding that we are unable, in and of ourselves, to do anything to save our own souls. This is the beginning point of our salvation

experience: Kevin, you, and I, we are all unable to save ourselves. But, this is good news because we can't and this is good news because we do not have to! There is righteousness available to us. This righteousness is not found in the Law, but in the work and in the person of Jesus Christ!

The Righteousness through Jesus (Verses 22-24).
There is for us redemption from our depravity. Redemption comes only through the work of Jesus on the cross and is given to us by means of faith. Again, we need to go back to this truth: our salvation cannot be earned. But to say that it cannot be earned is not the same thing as saying there are no requirements for redemption.

It cannot be earned but there are expectations to become a recipient. That expectation is faith. To believe that there are no expectations is universalism, an errant view that all people of all times will be saved. This is not the testimony of the Gospels. So, how are we to understand faith, and what does faith look like in one's life?

Romans 4 helps us better understand that our faith leads to our salvation. Abraham is the example offered by Paul: “*Abraham believed in God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.*” Again, “*faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness.*” So it was for Kevin, and so it is for you and for me. We believe in God and specifically we believe that God sent Jesus as our grace gift, as our redemption!

This seems too elementary for us. We want so badly to be able to claim our own righteousness. But the expectation of God for us is not ‘works’ unto salvation. The expectation is faith. It is belief in Christ and the Gospel, and that alone, which saves us from our depravity and makes us righteous. This IS Good News! Faith in Jesus takes away our depravity and makes us righteous. Remember this is possible because of the work of Jesus!

The Sacrifice is the Means (Verses 25-26). We have just celebrated the Christmas season. We should always celebrate Christmas with Easter in view, because it was the intention of His coming that Jesus would give His life as atoning sacrifice for our sinfulness. This is why we are told in verse 25 that Jesus is “a propitiation by his blood.” Propitiation simply means, “a sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favor.” Some translations translate this word as mercy seat or atoning sacrifice.

Jesus' death, His sacrifice, is the necessary work that atones for our sinfulness! His sacrifice is what we are to believe in, what we have faith in and how we are to find our salvation! Paul says that because of Jesus' sacrifice

we can know that our sins are forgiven. In the blood of Jesus, there is a passing over of our sins. In the death of Jesus there is a rendering of us righteous rather than guilty! Jesus's sacrifice is the means by which we are saved from our depravity. Through faith we find peace with God.

The Humility of Grace (Verses 27-31). Finally, we learn that there is for us a humility of grace. You have not earned your salvation. It is a grace gift to you so that you have no place to boast about something that was done for you. Kevin was a great theologian, but that is not what saved him. Kevin was a great preacher of the Gospel, but that is not what saved him. Kevin was a faithful confidant and friend, but that is not what saved him.

Kevin believed. He had faith in the work of Jesus and that alone is what saved him. He did not earn his salvation through works but came to faith because of God's grace. This truth, among other things, is what places all of us on equal standing at the foot of the cross. It is God's grace through faith that has saved every man that has been saved. This truth places all men at the same place and on the same footing as all others! There is no room for boasting in the salvation received as a gift.

This is the message that Paul offers to us after explaining the work of Christ and the means and availability of the Gospel. We might then ask why Paul presses so hard on this idea of there being a necessary humility in this grace gift. Here is why it is so important for us to have a proper perspective on the Gospel as individuals at moment like this. Because of the Gospel, we should worship the Giver of salvation and celebrate this morning that our friend, brother and son Kevin has been saved! Because of this Gospel, we should cherish the message and, like Kevin, be moved to preach this Gospel for the remainder of our lives. Because of this Gospel, we should live our lives for the purpose of making Jesus known.

Kevin taught me not to attempt to preach people into heaven. I was to preach a very difficult funeral for a man whose salvation was questionable. His life had not shown evidence of salvation. I asked Kevin, "How do you preach at a man's funeral when you are not sure if they were saved?" I will never forget Kevin's words to me, "You can't convince the deceased of the truth of the Gospel, but you can those that are in the room. You simply say, 'This man has received his eternal reward, whatever that may be. Have you trusted in Jesus for yours?'"

I stand here today to say, without any hesitation, that Kevin's reward is certain. I believe that he, in this very

moment, is sitting at the feet of Jesus. Even though he couldn't save himself, he trusted in the one who could save him. What about each of you? Have you trusted in Him for your salvation today? Kevin would want nothing more than this for you, that on this day, you would trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins.

Funeral of Dr. Kevin Meador with message by Rev. Steve Mayes, January 1, 2023

When I heard that Kevin had died last Tuesday night, a Scripture instantly came to mind. I thought of the words spoken by David to his servants about the death of Abner at the hands of Joab: *Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?* (2 Samuel 3:38). Even though he would not have agreed with those words about himself, this community and the church at large has lost a great man in the death of Kevin Meador. As much as I want to honor Kevin today, I want even more to honor his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Gospel by which Kevin was saved and that to which he gave his life in service and ministry.

My exposure to the Meador family predated my introduction to Kevin. His brother Darryl and I were students at East Central Community College and had a few classes together. After graduation our paths went in different directions, with Darryl working and living in Kansas City while I eventually was called into the ministry and served in my first church at Pinckney Baptist Church for two years where Kevin and his parents were members. Although we knew Kevin before, it was at Pinckney that we came to really know him.

Kevin was a seminary student in New Orleans and a frequent guest in our home during those two years, most every Sunday and Wednesday nights when he was not in school. We spent hours each week discussing Scripture, theology, ministry, the church, life, and family. We came to love and appreciate Kevin's robust sense of humor as we laughed together and formed a lasting bond of friendship that lasted more than 32 years. During those two years, I was technically Kevin's pastor. In all reality, Kevin became our pastor then and remained so until his death. Kevin walked with us during the years of our son Ben's suffering and death as a constant friend, encourager, and, prayer warrior.

If there was one thing which dominated his years of ministry, it, was prayer. Kevin devoted his life to prayer, to his own faithful prayer life and to teaching and encouraging individual Christians and churches to be devoted to prayer. He founded Prayer Closet Ministries in 1998 and regularly produced a newsletter which has been mailed to virtually every state and other countries. This ministry has produced materials to assist and encourage prayer and to seek revival in the church. I have three very large binders filled with Kevin's newsletters which cover a broad spectrum of teaching and guidelines to prayer. When all is said and done, I think that Kevin will be the most prolific author in the history of the church on the subject of prayer. His name should be included in conversations along with men such as Andrew Murray, Hudson Taylor, and George Mueller.

Kevin was also a scholar in his own right. He was a constant reader and possessed a collection of books that would rival that of any pastor or professor that I've ever known. He had a tremendous depth of knowledge of Scripture, theology, and church history which would rival a university or seminary professor. That knowledge provided a rich depth to his ministry and made him a passionate and intense preacher of the Gospel and evangelist. He was absolutely committed to Christ, to Scripture, and the church. His theological foundation was the system of belief known as the Doctrines of Grace, Calvinism, or Reformed doctrine. It was Kevin who first introduced that understanding of Scripture to me and many others and set me on the path which I have followed for over thirty years now.

Every pastor needs a pastor. I am grateful that Kevin Meador was my pastor and my family's pastor.

He was a faithful friend and confidant. He loved his family and was a faithful son and brother. He was a faithful minister of the Gospel and servant of the church. I believe that he has been received into the everlasting fellowship of the saints in heaven. The writer of Hebrews refers to them as *the spirits of just men made perfect* (12:23, NKJV). I believe that He was been welcomed by the Lord whom he served with words as spoken by Jesus in Matthew 25: *Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master* (v.21).

With all that has been said, I would not want to mislead anyone into thinking that Kevin has somehow earned his way into heaven, or that by his good deeds and faithful ministry he was saved. That is not what Scripture teaches and it was most certainly not what Kevin believed. Please allow me to use Kevin's own

words to show you how he perceived himself and anyone who does not know Christ.

The quotes below were copied from Kevin's Facebook page:

"I was raised in a Christian home. My parents took me to church. I walked the aisle and joined the church. I tried to be a good person. But something was wrong. Even though I had all these things, I had the nagging sense that I wasn't right with God ... I promised God that I would do better and work harder at being a better person. I would feel better for a time. But it would come back. And it would get worse each time. It turned into a cutting, shredding conviction. No matter what I did, the conviction would not stop. Every night, I would lie in bed knowing that I was headed to hell. And I deserved to go there. Nothing assuaged this conviction and realization. I was a good, moral, lost church member.

Then, on a Sunday night, a man gave a simple testimony about Jesus and what Jesus had done for him. It was like the chains fell off of me. My heart grabbed hold of Jesus! I called on Him and placed my trust in Him. I couldn't save myself. But Jesus could! And He did. For the first time in my life, I wasn't looking at myself but I was looking to Jesus. I turned away from all that I was and embraced who He was, the only Savior and Lord, the Son of God who died and rose again. That's what made the difference."

Kevin's words reflect the biblical doctrines of sin and grace. In the sin of Adam, all humanity was plunged into sin, guilt and spiritual death, a condition we commonly refer to as being lost. Every human is born in that state and it is something we cannot overcome on our own. We cannot do enough good to outweigh our bad or to put God in our debt so that He must save us. In Romans 6, Paul wrote, *For the wages of sin is death* (verse 23). This speaks of physical death, which is the reason why we are here today. All of us and each and every one of us will die and are dying. But in the context of Romans 6, Paul was speaking more of eternal, spiritual death, and of condemnation and judgment.

If that were the only thing we had to say and all that Scripture had to say, we would be no better off than Buddhists. A Buddhist funeral procession through the streets is accompanied by signs which read, "This is the end" and "There is no hope." That is why the message proclaimed in Scripture is called good news or the Gospel. It is the message of redemption. At the conclusion of the section of Romans in which Paul details our sinful condition and the judgment of God upon sinners, he wrote, *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God's] sight, since*

through the law comes knowledge of sin (3:20). That is what Kevin wrote about, the conviction of his sin and guilt of God that he could not overcome on his own.

Immediately after those words Paul declares the good news of the Gospel. Even though all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, we are justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (3:23-24).

The beautiful thing about Christmas, which we've just gone through, is not the lights and decorations. It is the declaration that God came to earth as a man in the birth of Jesus. Deity took upon Himself humanity in Jesus and dwelt among us as one of us.

Unlike us, Jesus was perfect and completely without sin. As the perfect Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus was not subject to death. But He willingly submitted Himself to the will of the Father. As He suffered and died on the cross, He took our sins upon Himself and became sin for us. God poured out the fullness of His wrath upon Jesus so that He became a curse for us and died. We know that God raised Him from the dead on the third day.

Paul referred to the death of Jesus as a propitiation by His blood. This means that the justice of God was satisfied for the sins of His people so that we could be made right with God by means of faith. This comes about by the sovereign grace of God. By its very definition, grace means that this gift is undeserved. We experience the grace of God because He has set His love and affection on us. He pursues us by the convicting, spiritual-life giving work of His Holy Spirit. He removes the hearts of stone and gives us hearts of flesh, opening our hearts and minds to show us the beauty and love and grace of Christ who died for us. As He does this we are drawn to Christ and receive Him and the benefits of His death and resurrection by faith. Paul had said *the wages of sin is death*, but he also said, *but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*. That is the good news of the Gospel and there is no other way for any human to be saved than by the Gospel.

I want you to hear what Kevin wrote and what he would say to you if you have never trusted Christ.

“Friend, as you read this, I don't know where you stand. But I want to invite you to Jesus. I can assure you that you won't find forgiveness or peace in anyone or anything else. I can tell you from personal experience. You can be good. You can be moral. You can be a church member. You can have people praise you for what a good person you are. But it's all in vain without Jesus Christ. Please don't be deceived into thinking that you can be right with God in any other way than repentance and personal faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I ask you to turn away from yourself – your works,

your goodness, your pride – and trust solely in Jesus Christ, surrendering yourself and all that you are to him.”

“One second after you breath your last breath, you will experience either the greatest peace and joy or the most excruciating pain and sorrow you've ever known in this life. In that moment, all that will matter is how you responded to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the dividing line between heaven and hell. Jesus says in John 14:6, *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” I exhort you to consider the claims of Jesus Christ. Life is short, eternity is forever. Jesus is the Savior. If you will turn from your sinful, self-absorbed life and trust Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord, He will save you and admit you into heaven. If you reject Him, you have no hope now or for eternity.

You will be lost forever. My friend, be sure where you stand with Jesus Christ.”

All the things that Kevin believed about eternal life and the glory of Christ have all come to pass for him. If he could talk to us now he would tell us that he underestimated the beauty and glory and joy of what he is now experiencing. Paul wrote, *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him (1 Cor 2:9).*

We miss Kevin and I think we grieve more for ourselves than we grieve for him. Kevin was a man who loved God, loved His Word, and loved His church. He has now entered into the joy of the Lord as the Lord promised in His Word.

O, gracious Father in Heaven, you are more glorious than our sinful eyes are able to behold. No one can look upon you and live.

Even Moses, your great Old Testament servant who spoke with you face to face as a man speaks to a friend, was not allowed to look upon your face. We praise you, the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Father, we thank you for your amazing grace which has brought salvation to us through the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

We thank you for the grace you give to atone for our sins, to provide for our every need in the present, and to secure an eternal home with you in your glorious presence.

Father we pray this afternoon for grace and strength for this family as you guide them through this valley. We pray that they may experience the peace and comfort which is ministered by your Holy Spirit. We

thank you that there is nothing in this life which can separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. We pray that in this service, you have been honored and glorified as we bear witness to your infinite grace and mercy toward us through the cross of Christ. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Graveside Service

We need the hope which is found in Christ alone. Though death is the last enemy, it need not have the last word. When Jesus died on the cross, it looked like death had won. As the perfect, sinless Son of God, death had no claim on Jesus. He gave His life for the sins of others – for sinners like you and me. He willingly faced this enemy and gave His life in the place of guilty sinners. He overcame death when God raised Him from the dead.

Isaiah predicted that the Lord would swallow up death forever (25:8) – that is what happened at the resurrection when Jesus rose victorious over death.

In 1 Cor 15:57, Paul tells us that God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. When we trust in Christ as Savior, His victory over death becomes ours. In their hymn, “In Christ Alone,” Keith and Kristyn Getty sing these words:

There in the ground His body lay;
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Even though we will face the last enemy of death and it will appear that the enemy has won, the resurrection of Christ is the guarantee that death has not had the last word. This is our hope as Christians – a hope that is only found in Christ.

There was a group of Christians who lived a few hundred years ago known as the Puritans. They were godly men who were among the most joyful believers who ever lived. I think of Kevin Meador as a man who was born and lived out of his time as he would have fit in greatly with the Puritans. I want to close this message with a prayer from a Puritan that fits greatly with the life of our friend, Dr. Kevin Meador:

Thou art my divine treasury in whom all fullness dwells: my life, hope, joy, peace, glory, end; May I be daily more and more conformed to Thee, with the meekness and calmness of the Lamb in my soul and a feeling sense of the [great happiness] of heaven where I long to join angels free from imperfections, where in me the image of my adored Savior will be completely restored, so that I may be fit for his enjoyments and employments.

I am not afraid to look the king of terrors in the face, for I know that I shall be drawn, not driven, out of the world.

Until then let me continually glow and burn out for thee, and when the last great change shall come let me awake in thy likeness leaving behind me an example that will glorify thee while my spirit rejoices in heaven, and my memory is blessed upon earth, with those who follow me praising thee for my life.



<https://youtu.be/GuLHpxabNcg>

Dr. Meador was asked to bring the message on Sunday, December 25, 2022 at the First Presbyterian Church in Union, MS. With this being his last sermon and it was on Christmas, we felt this would be an awesome way to honor Dr. Meador.