

Beacon Light for Dark Days

DOES GOD HONOR THE WORLD'S PRAYER FOR ASTRONAUT MOON FLIGHTS?

PART I

If man has successfully exceeded his appointed bounds, and overcome the will of God for him to dwell upon the earth as his abode, will God then hear and answer prayers in behalf of this course and put His sanction on it by giving success to moon flights? Or if, in any event, success is attained, does it necessarily mean that God had anything at all to do with it? And are we not in danger of soundly deceiving ourselves in assuming His approval on our set-up arrangement for Him to subscribe to, without at least first enquiring His terms for compliance?

Why should we conclude that God has positively committed Himself and answered prayer as we determined, even in a thing that is not only so entirely needless, but so evidently contrary to His will and appointed order, and when, at the same time His intervention and help which is so desperately needed (as in the termination of this murderous Viet Nam war) yields to our prayers no answer save only that of His most conspicuous and painful silence, which is the supreme trial and mystery at this hour? Yet we hastily pretend to have His immediate concern and providential answer to our prayers on this "epic" occasion of man's most needless, most waste-ful, and most vain glorious expedition the world has ever known!

Intoxicated with our self-deceiving fantasy of "space exploration", this nation is now the more committed (by reason of this assumed answer to prayer) to an ominous build-up for God's answering indeed, but in fierce judgment—both for the brazen transgression on His domain and for the lie put into His mouth—when this wicked course shall have further ripened into a curse insupportable.

Thus we glory in our shame, and celebrate by "prayer" and jubilation today (July 21st, 1969) the nation's crowning folly, in thus despising and leaving our world for a transgressing adventure into we know-not what beyond it. And far better for us that God had stopped us in present disaster than to let us go on to a worse calamity, so surely portended by this inspiring success. What have we done with all God's manifold mercies and provisions for us in this beautiful world, so marvelously surviving even "the curse" on man's account? And why should He speak in approval on our insane and trespassing intrusion into other realms? How could a scintilla of righteousness on our part ever expect Him to be other than absolutely silent, at the best, on such an occasion of the world's selfish glory and insistent clamour called "prayer", if not indeed to "blow upon it" in just judgment?

Now let us see, as to "prayer". What is this prayer, the world talks about? We are called upon to pray today for the successful landing of the astronauts on the moon, and for their safe return to earth. But prayer supposes an audience with God only possible to those who are in relationship with Him, and who alone, are thus "on speaking terms" with their known God and Father. This cannot refer to the Lost World of unconverted sinners, who have nothing to do with prayer to God. Is such a fact at all considered in this universal call for prayer, and what is to save us from self-deception?

The language of prayer is the distinct utterance of the "new life" in the believers heart, and until one is born again by the Holy Spirit's operation (John 3) they are on no speaking terms with God, and cannot pray acceptably to Him, other than in heart-broken repentance for their own forgiveness and salvation. To presume otherwise to pray for this or that, is an