

WORSHIP SERVICE - 2.11.2024

OUR CONCERNS IN THE LORD'S PRAYER

I. INTRODUCTION

Matthew 6:9-13

9 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

10 Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread,

12 and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

II. PETITIONS: OUR CONCERNS

- As we come to this portion of the Lord's Prayer that focuses on our needs, our concerns, we should be keenly aware that as we pray for our needs that we are still to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33).
- That is still the target even as we are presenting our own needs.
- When we pray for the things we need in life we do it with God's glory in view.
- Why? Because all of life is to be lived to the glory of God, and that includes prayer. (1 Cor. 10:31)
- The Lord's prayer begins with God's concerns.
- This helps keep us from praying with wrong motives. (James 4:3)
- We pray for the earthly things we need in order to better serve the Lord, not our own selfish pleasures.

1. Give us this day our daily bread

- What does it mean when we pray, *'give us this day our daily bread?'*

- Baptist Catechism Q.111 What do we pray for in the fourth petition?
- A. In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them.
- When we pray "give us this day our daily bread":
- We are seeing God as the source of all of life's necessities and we are seeking God to provide them from his hand.
- "Bread" is a comprehensive term that extends to all of life's necessities.
- Jesus uses the term 'bread' to represent all of the material things of life when in his temptation in the wilderness he tells Satan, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4)
- God reminded His people through Moses that He is their source.
- Deut. 8:18 You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.
- What you have, has come to you by the divine hand of Providence.
- Praying for our needs is acknowledging our entire dependence upon God for the provision of our physical needs.
- We get food, shelter, clothing, health and prosperity from the hand of God.
- If we don't ask God for these things it's generally because:
- We think we can get them for ourselves. Which demonstrates a level of self-sufficiency and independence from God.
- We think God is unconcerned; that he doesn't really care about these things.
- But when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we acknowledge that:
- God is a loving Father who does care about our material needs.
- We can indeed pray for our material needs to be met because our Father told us to seek him for those things.
- When we pray "give us this day our daily bread":
- We are seeking God daily for the necessities of life.
- "This day", implies this is a daily prayer.
- Jesus is teaching us to pray daily for the necessary bread for that day.
- We are to daily express our dependence upon God.
- Jesus is teaching us to live one day at a time in complete dependence upon God for that day's provisions.
- Why? Because we are weak and needy every day, and every day we must depend on Him for his power to sustain us.
- Day by day reliance is being taught in the prayer.
- Jesus expands on this in Matthew 6:25-34. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own (v34).
- Living this way keeps us from becoming practicing atheists.
- When everything is going good, when we have an abundance, we tend to forget about God and act like we don't need him.
- Deut 8:11-14 "Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, 12 lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery...
- How can you pray this petition, "Give us this day our daily bread?"
- First, learn to be content with what you have and to be content in any and every situation (Phil. 4:11-12).

- 1 Timothy 6:6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
- Second, give thanks to the Lord in everything (1 Thess. 5:18).
- Third, pray daily for your material and physical needs with a view to God's glory.

2. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors

- The next two petitions prioritize our spiritual needs.
- What is it that we most need?
- Deliverance from sin's power and deliverance from sin's penalty.
- What does Jesus teach us in this petition?
- Baptist Catechism Q.112 What do we pray for in the fifth petition?
- A. In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are rather encouraged to ask because by His grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.
- Hasn't Jesus already forgiven our sins? Why do we need to continually confess our sins and ask for forgiveness?
- There is an 'already' reality to our salvation and a 'not yet'.
- Scripture teaches that we have been saved, are being saved, and will be saved.
- We have been justified, we are being sanctified, and we will be glorified.
- God's Word teaches that all aspects of our salvation are as good as done because of Christ that they can be spoken of as in the past tense, we see that not all things have taken place yet.
- We have already been blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, we have not yet experienced the fullness of those spiritual blessings. (Eph. 1:3)
- Which is why the apostolic writers continue to exhort us to continue to seek and rely on God's grace and blessing through God's Word, through prayer, and through fellowship with the saints.
- Though we have been delivered from sin and its penalty, we still sin.
- Sin is a debt, a failed obligation owed to God.
- It is a failure to give to God what he is rightfully due, which is obedience, service and worship.
- The right response to our sin is confession.
- Because Jesus has paid the penalty for all of our sins, past, present and future, it is right that we make confession of our present sins to receive the forgiveness purchased for us by Christ.
- 1 John 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- This is a conditional statement — if we confess our sins, we are forgiven of our sins and cleansed from all unrighteousness.
- We are in need of ongoing confession and forgiveness because we continue to sin.
- The good news is that through confession we receive ongoing grace from our Lord.
- 1 John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
- We go to Christ for our salvation and forgiveness of our past sins, we continue to go to Christ for forgiveness of our sins now. We continue to go to Christ when we sin for the redemption that he already accomplished to be continually applied.

- Unconfessed sin is a hindrance to prayer.
 - Unconfessed sin brings guilt and shame that can prevent us from turning to the Lord in repentance and confession.
 - Unconfessed sin robs us of joy in our walk.
 - When you confess your sins, looking to Christ's work and the forgiveness that is found only in Him, the healing balm of grace is applied.
 - Forgiveness is promised to all who acknowledge their sins.
 - From that forgiveness flows the blessings of knowing that 'we have peace with God' (Rom. 5:1), that there is 'no condemnation' (Rom. 8:1), and our sins are not counted against us (2 Cor. 5:19).
 - Confession of sin is an important part of the daily life of prayer of the believer.
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- As we take a deep dive in examining ourselves we see we don't stack up.
 - But as we openly acknowledge our debt before God, we can receive the forgiveness he promises.
 - So we eagerly seek to confess and repent regularly in order to continue to further our sanctification; trusting that He pardons our offenses and continues to change our hearts.
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- Unforgiveness is a hindrance to prayer.
 - It is assumed by Jesus in the prayer that we will have a forgiving spirit.
 - Because we know the darkness of our own hearts and the great debt that has been forgiven us, we won't withhold forgiveness from others.
 - If you cannot forgive others when they have sinned against you it's because you still don't understand the enormity of your sin against a holy God.
 - The parable of the unmerciful servant. (Matthew 18:21-35)
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- Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - A heart which is profoundly aware of the enormity of its debts to God is merciful and forgiving in its dealings with others. You must forgive.

3. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- What does Jesus teach us in this petition?
 - Baptist Catechism Q.113 What do we pray for in the sixth petition?
 - A. In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.
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- This petition is the plea of those who know the capacity for deceitfulness in their heart and their susceptibility to the allure of temptation.
 - We experience the pull of all that is in the world, the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16).
 - And that apart from God's enabling, we are weak and feeble in our war against sin and temptation.
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- When we pray, "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil".
 - We are expressing dependence on God to resist temptation.
 - 1 Cor. 10:12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
 - We are utterly unable to keep ourselves from sin without the help of God.
 - God must give us the fullness of His Spirit or we will falter, fail, and fall.
 - Only when we recognize our weakness and inability, and place our confidence and trust in Christ, are we strong enough to resist temptation.
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- When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation,":

- We are acknowledging our Father is the Lord over the circumstances of our life.
- We know the Scripture tells us that he orchestrates and causes all things to work together for our good. (Romans 8:28)
- That means that though he does not directly tempt us to sin, he does plan, permit, and ordain for us to encounter temptations, trials, and tests.
- He does this in order to strengthen us and to grow us in grace.
- James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- To pray “Lead us not” is to pray “Lord keep us from circumstances where we might give in to temptation.”
- That could be people, places, or things.
- People: bad associations, who entice us to sin and who cause us to stumble.
- Places: places that arouse a spirit of discontent or stir up sinful tendencies in us.
- Things: time-wasting entertainment.
- What temptations do you need to be delivered from?
- Terry Johnson, *“If I lack Joseph’s strength, keep me from Potiphar’s wife. If I’m vulnerable to the flesh like David, keep me from Bathsheba. If I am a coward when persecuted, keep me from circumstances like Peter’s on the night of Jesus’ betrayal. If the good opinion of others is a snare to me, keep me from opportunities to deceive like those encountered by Ananias and Sapphira. If I’m tempted to love the world, keep me from the path of Demas, who having loved the present world, deserted Paul.”*
- If we find ourselves tempted, if we find ourselves under the attack of the evil one, we can cry out for rescue. *“Deliver me Lord from this temptation!”*
- We have a real enemy who prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).
- He opposes God’s people with unholy ferocity trying to ensnare us (1 Tim 3:7).
- He disguises himself as an angel of light in order to deceive (2 Cor. 11:14-15).
- He plots and schemes in his war against the saints (Eph 6:11).
- But He is a defeated enemy.
- Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
- The devil will soon be crushed under our feet (Rom. 16:20).
- 1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
- No temptation you face is an exception, it’s common to all.
- We are never going to be tempted beyond that which a normal, born-again, Spirit filled, believer can resist.
- If you are in Christ, there is no temptation that will overwhelm you to the point where you are incapable of resisting and enduring to the degree that you cannot cry out for rescue.
- When we cry out for rescue:
- He strengthens us to overcome the temptation.
- He removes the tempting circumstance from us.
- He removes us from the tempting circumstance.
- Daily we should be praying for the Lord’s deliverance from temptation and to be strengthened against spiritual attacks.

III. PRAISE

II - PRAISE

“For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

- Why is this not in my Bible translation?
- Older manuscripts (Alexandrian) which were later discovered do not include it.
- These older manuscripts are thought of to be much more reliable and accurate.
- That's why most of the modern translations which use the Alexandrian manuscripts omit the benediction.
- J.I. Packer, *“It's not in the best manuscripts, nevertheless it's in the best traditions.”*
- There is evidence that the benediction dates back to the late first century as it is used at the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer in the Didache, which was a teaching manual for Gentile converts to Christianity.
- The church has historically included it at the end of the prayer.
- There is a parallel to this doxology in David's prayer at the consecration of the construction of the Temple.
- 1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.
- Since it has been regarded as Scripture by the church since the first century, it is appropriate to include it.
- Baptist Catechism Q.114 What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach?
- A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen, teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory, to Him. And in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.
- The benediction is a declaration:
- For God to enforce the petitions because "yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever."
- Because he is the Sovereign King and ruler over all things and because he is our Father, we trust that he is willing and able to answer these petitions for the glory of His great name.
- It's an acknowledgement of praise to the One who can make these things we prayed for happen according to his will.
- “Forever”, we are expressing that his kingdom, power and glory endure forever.
- His glory will never be diminished and His kingdom and power will never be overthrown.
- The benediction ascribes praise. We end as we began.
- We began with praise in the prelude, “Our Father in heaven”, and we conclude with praise!
- Does your heart overflow with praise?
- Is it your great passion that God would be worshipped and glorified and honored?
- For His name to be hallowed?
- For His kingdom to come in fullness and power?
- For Him to be worshipped and obeyed on earth as He is in heaven?
- Do you pray with God's glory in mind?
- Do you look to Him as the source for your every need?
- Do you depend on Him for your daily bread?
- Do you seek the riches of grace and forgiveness found in Christ alone through confession of sin and extend forgiveness to others?

- Do you find your refuge and shelter from sin and temptation in your strong and mighty God who can keep you from stumbling and present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy?
- Then we pray to Him and praise Him “for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen!”

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?