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The Lord's Prayer – Part 2
Introduction to Series
Series: Near to the Heart of God
The Village Church at Shell Point
Evening Service
April 23, 2023

I. Review

A. **Prayer as the Chief Activity of the Christian**

1. Not religion, but relationship
2. Means of relationship = communication
 - a. Communication = prayer
3. **Theological framework**
 - a. Destitute of goodness, devoid of procuring our own salvation
 - (1) Must go beyond self to receive salvation
 - b. Christ is given as God incarnate
 - (1) Happiness for misery
 - (2) Abundance for want
 - (3) Treasures of heaven in Him
 - c. We turn in faith to Him, depend on Him, hope in Him
4. Only way to be near to God, receive spiritual riches, is prayer

B. **Prayers in the New Testament**

1. Contrast with my prayer life
 - a. I don't pray like those people!
2. Value of studying prayers of those closest to God
3. Some recorded prayers – Jesus and Paul
 - a. One of most challenging studies I have ever done
4. Learning pray
 - a. Psalms
 - b. Prayers of the NT

C. **The Lord's Prayer – Part 1**

1. **The Misnamed Prayer**
 - a. Not the Lord's Prayer
 - (1) It's the Lord's instruction on prayer
2. **Luke 11:1** (NKJV) —
 - a. 1 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."
 - b. Then follows the Luke version of what we know of as the Lord's Prayer
3. The prayer then serves as a model, teaching us
 - a. What constitutes prayer

- b. How to pray
 - 4. Not the Lord's Prayer – but our Lord's teaching on prayer
 - D. **The Danger**
 - 1. **Misuse of the model**
 - 2. **Matthew 6:5–8 (NKJV) —**
 - a. Make prayer a public spectacle
 - b. Engage in meaningless repetition
 - 3. Unfortunately, evangelicals have avoided using this prayer frequently
 - a. Missed much instructional value
 - b. Why we use it – not every week, but every communion service
 - c. Recently we've sung it – very special!
 - 4. But that's not the primary way it was meant to be used
 - a. Not as a prayer in itself
 - b. Or even as a song
 - c. But as instruction
 - 5. **Compare my prayer life with New Testament prayers**
 - a. Found my prayers to be paltry, worldly, selfish – need to pray prayers of repentance for my prayers
 - b. Much of my lack was the failure to order my prayer life after the Lord's instruction
 - E. **The Importance of Instruction**
 - 1. **Taught to pray in the name of Christ**
 - a. Tendency is to append “in the name of Christ” to prayers as a formula
 - (1) Believe it then receives Christ's sanction
 - b. Really involves praying according to the will of Christ
 - c. How do we know the will of Christ in our praying?
 - d. Jesus' instruction on prayer! Aka, The Lord's Prayer

II. **The Structure of the Prayer**

- A. **Greeting** – Our Father in heaven
- B. **Petitions**
 - 1. Concerned first with God
 - a. Hallowed be Thy name
 - b. Thy kingdom come
 - c. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
 - 2. Concerned second with our selves
 - a. Give us this day our daily bread
 - b. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
 - c. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
 - 3. Cf **Ten Commandments**
 - a. **God-relationship centered commandments**
 - (1) No other gods
 - (2) No idols
 - (3) No use of God's name in vain

- (4) Keep Sabbath holy
 - b. **Human-relationship centered commandments**
 - (1) Honor father and mother
 - (2) No murder
 - (3) No adultery
 - (4) No stealing
 - (5) No false testimony
 - (6) No coveting
- C. **Conclusion**
 - 1. For thine is the kingdom, power and glory forever
- D. **Implication**
 - 1. If our prayers do not relate to at least one or another of these petitions, they are illegitimate!
- E. **The Greeting**
 - 1. **Our**
 - a. Prayer is corporate
 - 2. **Father**
 - a. Taught to pray in the name of Christ
 - b. Implied in this expression is that we pray to our Father
 - c. Only means of calling Him Father is by adoption
 - d. Those who are in Christ can pray “our Father”
 - 3. No greater love than to call us sons
 - a. Don’t deserve such a Father
 - b. Human tendency is to disown a wayward child
 - 4. Implication of our humility and sinfulness
- F. **In heaven**
 - 1. Not confined to another place
 - 2. Calls attention to His majesty, greatness, holiness, incomprehensibility, power, eternity
 - 3. Obligates us to raise our thoughts far beyond the mundane and ordinary
 - a. Conscious effort to lift our souls above
 - 4. Helps us to recognize who it is that we address
 - 5. Helps us to remove doubt

III. **God-centered Petitions**

- A. **Hallowed be Your name**
 - 1. **Real petition**
 - a. Not part of introduction
 - b. Commanded to pray that His name be regarded as holy
 - c. We are to have a concern for the reputation of God
 - (1) Not concerned that people would be like Him
 - (a) TV preachers often deny the sovereignty of God to divest Him of responsibility in terrible things that happen

- (b) If God is not responsible for such things we can still like Him!
- (c) Remember – TV preachers need viewers!
- (2) We are concerned that God is regarded as holy whether or not people like Him
 - (a) We can be sure that many will not like a Holy God
- d. Example
 - (1) **Leviticus 10:1–3** (ESV) — 1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’ ” And Aaron held his peace.

2. **Meaning of Holy**

- a. Two basic meanings
 - (1) Moral purity (secondary meaning)
 - (2) Set apart, separated
 - (a) Includes the idea of purity
- b. **Fundamental meaning = Other**
- c. God is different from us
 - (1) We are not little gods (gnosticism, new age, Mormonism, TV preachers)
 - (2) God is not a nice old man up in the sky with a long white beard
 - (3) God does not look like George Burns (movie – “Oh God” starring John Denver and George Burns)
- d. God is beyond anything or anyone we could possibly imagine
 - (1) In thinking
 - (2) In moral purity
 - (3) In power
 - (4) In justice
 - (5) Etc.

3. **Meaning of the Petition**

- a. When people think and speak of God, they should have in mind His majesty, power, glory – His holiness
- b. Thinking or speaking of God should evoke
 - (1) Awe
 - (2) Reverence
 - (3) Fear

4. **Positive manifestations** of answered petition

- a. Proclaiming the word and works of God
 - (1) Praise should be continually on our lips

- (2) Our speech should evidence careful concern for the holiness of God
 - (3) Consistently remind ourselves of His great works
 - 5. **Negative manifestations** of answered petition
 - a. Abstain from irreverent language of all types
 - b. Abstain from flippant, thoughtless language about God
 - c. Respond appropriately when others speak that way
 - 6. Relations to Ten Commandments
 - a. No other gods
 - b. No idols
 - c. No vain use of God's name
 - d. Keep Sabbath holy
- B. **Your kingdom come**
 - 1. Similarity with first petition
 - a. More explicit regarding how God's name would be regarded as holy
 - 2. **Kingdom of God**
 - a. Present manifestation
 - (1) Jesus: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near"
 - (a) Echoes John the Baptist's prophecy
 - b. Future manifestation
 - (1) Jesus' return – millennial kingdom
 - (2) Full manifestation
 - c. Petition has both in mind
 - (1) Kingdom would evidence itself now
 - (a) In us personally
 - (b) In the world generally
 - (2) Kingdom would come in fullness
 - (a) Return of Christ
 - d. Nature of the personal kingdom
 - (1) Calvin: "... God reigns when men, in denial of themselves, and contempt of the world and this earthly life, devote themselves to righteousness and aspire to heaven
 - (2) Spirit corrects depraved lusts of the flesh
 - (3) Spirit brings all thoughts into obedience to Him
 - e. Process of praying this petition
 - (1) **Start with ourselves**
 - (a) Ask that no desire, inclination, thought would disturb the reign of Christ in us
 - (2) **Move to the church**
 - (a) Ask that the Spirit would so move in all God's people that each individually would submit to His authority
 - (3) **Move to the world** (or the wicked)
 - (a) Ask for God's disciplinary work

- (b) Break pride, humble the world
 - (c) Convert the ungodly
 - 3. Calvin: “This prayer, therefore, ought to withdraw us from the corruptions of the world which separate us from God, and prevent his kingdom from flourishing within us; secondly, it ought to inflame us with an ardent desire for the mortification of the flesh; and, lastly, it ought to train us to the endurance of the cross; since this is the way in which God would have his kingdom to be advanced.”
- C. **Your will be done**
 - 1. Again, not really a separate petition
 - a. Further explanation for us dull sheep
 - b. The reign of God will manifest when His will is done
 - 2. Various kinds of the will of God
 - a. **Efficacious will**
 - (1) By which He governs the universe
 - (2) Secret will sovereignly carrying out eternal divine plan
 - (3) **Deuteronomy 29:29** (ESV) — 29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
 - b. **Permissive will**
 - (1) What God allows but does not sanction
 - c. **Declarative will**, imperative will
 - (1) That which He commands
 - (2) Involves the voluntary obedience of people
 - 3. Declarative will involved primarily in this petition
 - a. Praying that we, and others, would voluntarily respond in obedience to His commands
 - 4. Distinction between earth and heaven
 - a. Obviously, the two are not the same in obedience to the will of God
 - b. **Psalm 103:20–21** (ESV) — 20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! 21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!
 - (1) Heaven obeys God’s will immediately, implicitly
 - (2) Implicitly, we don’t
 - c. We pray that human beings would respond to God as the angels do – immediate, delighted obedience
- D. **Implications of petition**
 - 1. **Deny our own wills** entirely
 - a. If we don’t we stand in opposition to His will and become hypocrites
 - b. Our own will apart from Him is always sinful
 - 2. **Ask that God may rule according to His pleasure**
 - 3. **Ask that God will change our minds**

- a. Love that which God loves
- b. Hate that which God hates
- 4. In fact, ask that God would make us willing
 - a. That our very desires and inclinations would be subordinate to Him
- 5. Relationship to Ten Commandments
 - a. Most substantive summary of the divine will
 - b. Our prayer is that what is summarized in the commandments may issue in obedience from our own hearts as our express desire and delight

IV. Summary

- A. Focus of these petitions is God
 - 1. Our own good is clearly involved when He is glorified, His kingdom comes, and His will is done
 - 2. But the nature of our asking is for Him and for His glory
 - a. We don not, at this state, ask for ourselves
- B. Proper time and place for ourselves
 - 1. Next set of petitions
 - 2. To disregard the first set is to pray selfishly
- C. As we pray we must be influenced to work for His glory, kingdom, and will
 - 1. Calvin: Hence, if men, in praying that the name of God may be hallowed, that his kingdom may come, and his will be done, are not influenced by this zeal for the promotion of his glory, they are not to be accounted among the servants and children of God; and as all these things will take place against their will, so they will turn out to their confusion and destruction.