

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus has taught us to pray, has given us a model prayer, which we may use
-by praying those exact words, or
-by using those words as a guide by which we know how to pray when we pray in other words.

After addressing God as our heavenly Father, we are to pray first about those things that directly pertain to His glory. Of those three petitions, we already have considered the first two:

“Hallowed be Thy name”

“Thy kingdom come”

May it be that in our hearts, we set apart the name of the Lord from all other names, giving Him all that is due to God, and giving it to no one else; fearing Him and not fearing man or any other creature; ultimately trusting Him and not ourselves or anything else.

And,

may it be that the Kingdom of God will grow in grace

-that God will open the mouths of the preachers, and the ears of the hearers

-that God will build, purify, and maintain the congregations

may it be that the Kingdom of God will appear in glory

-our Lord Jesus has promised He is coming back to bring those who believe in Him into His kingdom forever

-loving His appearing and His kingdom, longing for it, we pray for that promise to be fulfilled

There is a beautifully reasonable progression through those first two petitions into the third, which we take up today.

TEXT

Matthew 6:10 ...Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Luke 11:2 ...Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

BODY

I. In Heaven, All Do the Will of God

- A. Psalm 103:20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.
 - 1. God's word commands the angels
 - 2. they heed His word
 - 3. they do what His word commands
- B. Luke 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."
 - 1. God sent Gabriel to speak to Zechariah
 - 2. Gabriel went and spoke to him
- C. That is a beautiful thing, something well worth contemplating
 - 1. in Philippians 4, the Bible exhorts us to think about or meditate on whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy
 - 2. here is just such a thing: the way that those creatures in heaven all do the will of God
 - 3. Larger Catechism: humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy

In heaven, all do the will of God

II. In Earth, Men Naturally Do Not the Will of God

- A. People walk according to the course of this world, according to the devil, doing not the will of God, but the will of their own flesh (Eph 2:2)
- B. Some people make themselves religious, naming God as the one they worship, pretending to do the will of God, or even deceiving themselves into thinking they do the will of God; but truly they are doing their own will, which is under the sway of the devil
- C. Many other people worship the creature rather than the Creator, either setting up idols made by hands, or imagining false gods in their minds, or even pretending that there is no god, setting themselves up as gods
 - 1. 1 Peter 4:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.
- D. Sadly, many people even have heard the truth of the one true God, and have an intellectual knowledge of His will, but remain in their natural state of infidelity, unbelief, in pride refusing to do the will of God, even as they are afraid of what will happen to them if they don't

In heaven, all do the will of God

In earth, men naturally do not the will of God

III. Not To Be Doing the Will of God Is a Terrible Condition

- A. It makes men hateful and miserable
 - 1. they hate one another
 - 2. they hurt and kill each other
 - 3. they hurt and kill even themselves
- B. It subjects men to the judgment of God
 - 1. in this present life
 - 2. in the place of the wicked dead
 - 3. in the final judgment and
 - 4. in the age to come

In heaven, all do the will of God

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Not to be doing the will of God is a terrible condition

IV. So We Pray That Men On Earth Will Do the Will of God As It Is Done in Heaven

- A. We pray this for sinners, that they be saved

Matthew 21:28-31 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

- 1. in the parable
 - a) the father commanded the first son
 - b) the first son said it was not his will to obey the Father
 - c) afterward he regretted it; he changed his mind; more than just that, he repented
 - d) then he did the will of the father
- 2. in history
 - a) God commanded Israel to love Him and to love each other
 - b) many in Israel refused, living in open rebellion against God
 - c) but when John the Baptist preached that Christ was coming, and that they must repent, they believed and repented, and were baptized
 - d) then they lived in obedience to God's commands
- 3. in the world today
 - a) God commanded all men to love Him and to love each other
 - b) many people of the world live in open rebellion against God
 - c) Jesus Christ died on the cross, taking the penalty that they deserved
 - d) He rose again, commanded that repentance and forgiveness in His name be preached to all men
 - e) we pray, as our Lord Jesus taught us, "Thy will be done;" in answer to prayer, God works in sinful men faith and repentance
 - f) then those men, converted to be disciples of Jesus Christ, begin to live in obedience to God's commands, doing His will

- B. We pray this for the saints, that they be sanctified
1. when sinners are converted to be saints, the inner man has been made new, to love God's will, as know by His commandments
 2. but even in the saints, their own flesh tempts them to continue in rebellion against the will of God
 3. so, as our Lord Jesus taught us, we pray for one another, that in us the will of God be done
 - a) we pray to be filled with the knowledge of God's will - Colossians 1:9-10
For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
 - b) we pray to stand perfect and complete in all of God's will - Colossians 4:12
Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
- C. We pray this knowing that it is the work of God in us - Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
1. God's great power is shown in how He brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead
 2. that same power works in us through Jesus Christ to make us complete in every good work to do God's will

CONCLUSION

In heaven, all do the will of God

In earth, men naturally do not the will of God

Not to be doing the will of God is a terrible condition

So we pray that men on earth will do the will of God as it is done in heaven

~~Jeremiah~~ Jeff - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 103:1

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Psalm 103:2-21

Roel - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Psalm 103:22

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 582 "The Solid Rock" see attached sheet - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 70 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 435 "Jesus Christ the Crucified"

9:30 Bible Study

Do we think the Lord Jesus meant “Thy will be done” in both senses, or in just one?

Larger Catechism

Q. 192. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition (which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven), acknowledging that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and to do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness, and perverseness of heart; and by his grace make us able and willing to know, do, and submit to his will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy, as the angels do in heaven.

Henry: that we may neither displease God in any thing we do, nor be displeased at anything God does

Shorter Catechism (same in Baptist)

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Calvin:

It is said, that the will of God is done, when he executes the secret counsels of his providence, however obstinately men may strive to oppose him.

But here [in the Lord’s Prayer] we are commanded to pray that, in another sense, his will may be done, — that all creatures may obey him, without opposition, and without reluctance. This appears more clearly from the comparison, as in heaven For, as He has the angels constantly ready to execute his commands, (and hence they are said to do his commandments, hearkening to the voice of his word, Psa_103:20,) so we desire that all men may have their will formed to such harmony with the righteousness of God, that they may freely bend in whatever direction he shall appoint.

It is, no doubt, a holy desire, when we bow to the will of God, and acquiesce in his appointments.

But this prayer implies something more. It is a prayer, that God may remove all the obstinacy of men, which rises in unceasing rebellion against him, and may render them gentle and submissive, that they may not wish or desire any thing but what pleases him, and meets his approbation.

Matthew 26:36-44 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

It was not wrong for Jesus to pray that He not be

Acts 21:14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

1 Corinthians 16:12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

G2307 *thelena*

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Matthew 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 6:6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

G2309 *thelo* verb

Matthew 21:28-32 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he **regretted it [G3338 *metamellomai*]** and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise.

And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward **relent** [**G3338** *metamellomai*] and believe him.

