

Matthew 6; Lord's Day 50
PRAYER FOR DAILY BREAD

- I. The humble request.
 - A. "Bread" refers to necessities needed to sustain man's earthly life: food, clothing, shelter.
 - 1. Wine and oil are luxuries (which we may use, but for which we ought not ask).
 - 2. "Daily" emphasizes the idea of our dependence on God for necessities: one day at a time.
 - B. Why include this petition?
 - 1. First, so we learn that there is a place in our prayers for the physical and earthly (Prov. 30:8).
 - 2. Second, so we remember that we are a part of a body ("our") where some have less than daily.
 - 3. Third, this petition asks God's blessing on our working. We are to remember that unless God builds (bless) we labor in vain.
 - 4. Fourth, this petition reminds us that "much" is nothing if under God's curse, and "little" (or nothing) is a blessing in His favor.
- II. This petition requires a spiritual attitude of faith.
 - A. We are taught to look up, to acknowledge the only Giver of good.
 - B. We are taught to exercise faith toward God.
 - 1. Faith believes that God cares for each of His, even the least among them.
 - 2. Faith says that our Father is so great that there is nothing too small for His observation and consideration
 - C. We are taught to acknowledge the absolute sovereignty of our Father, and His wisdom to know our need and to supply it.
 - D. Also faith sees that God uses the mercies of Christ (deacons).
- III. The beautiful significance.
 - A. We are taught to withdraw any trust on a creature and the place of it alone on our Father/King.
 - B. Also, this petition does not allow for sloth, but diligence in our work (cf. II Thess. 3:10).
 - C. The plural pronouns "us" and "our" mean that we are concerned for the whole body of Christ, not only for self.
 - D. This petition implies contentment with just bread and daily.
 - E. Of ourselves we cannot sincerely pray this, so we ask for grace to pray this petition.