

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

*"Give us, this day, our daily bread"*

# ORDER OF THE SECOND SET OF PETITIONS

- Why does "... *our daily bread*..." come before the others? Is food more important than forgiveness of or preservation from sin?
- "We do not ask that our daily bread may be given to us before we ask that we may be reconciled to God, as if the perishing food of the stomach were to be considered more valuable than the eternal salvation of the soul. But we do so that we may ascend, as it were, by steps from earth to heaven. Since God condescends to nourish our bodies, there can be no doubt whatever that He is far more careful of our spiritual lives. This kind and gentle manner of treating us raises our confidence higher." (Calvin's commentary)

# THEMES OF THE SECOND SET OF PETITIONS

- *God's Sovereignty*: If we do not think that God alone provides our food; how are we to believe that God alone provides forgiveness; or keeps back the Tempter?
  - If we have to earn our bread, do we have to earn forgiveness? Protection from temptation?
  - If God does not sovereignly act in giving us food, does He sovereignly act for our forgiveness or protection?

# THEMES OF THE SECOND SET OF PETITIONS

- *Humility*: We are unable to provide for ourselves our physical needs or our spiritual needs. By ourselves, we are helpless.
- *Thanksgiving*: The assumption of this section is not that we are praying for something we don't get; but that we receive what we ask for. This leads to the doxology at the end of the Prayer.

# MEANING OF THE PETITION

- "*Give us...*" - God giving us what we need is an act of grace. We don't deserve it.
- "*Give us...*" We are not merely praying for ourselves but for our families; our churches; and other believers.

# MEANING OF THE PETITION

- "... *this day*..." We are concerned with today's provisions and needs.
- To pray for tomorrow's needs presumes we know what tomorrow's needs are - and we are not God.
- The petition focuses us on today. When we try to make tomorrow secure today, we may be sinning through worry. (Matthew 6:24-34).

# MEANING OF THE PETITION

- "... our *daily* bread..."
  - The prayer is for God to meet *today's* needs.
  - "Bread" encompasses all of what is needed - see 6:25. This is where we include all kinds of physical needs: financial, health, employment, etc.
  - The heart of this is trust in God each new day. Each day requires its own faith. Yesterday's faith does little to quell today's worry.

# REASONS WHY WE SHOULD PRAY THIS

- We have a tendency to think we have obtained our physical possessions on our own. This is the beginning of idolatry. (Deut. 6:10-12; 8:10-14; 31:20; Psalm 73:1-7; Hosea 13:6; Ezekiel 16:49).
- We have a tendency to forget that everything we have comes from God.
- We have a tendency to think only of ourselves, and not the needs of others in the church.

# WHAT THIS PETITION TELLS US ABOUT GOD

- God cares about our physical well-being. God is not a Gnostic dualist.
- God is a generous and caring God.
- God is faithful and can be depended on.

# APPLICATIONS

- Avoid the error of presumption. This verse is not telling you to not have a savings account, or to not plan for the future. (Proverbs 20:4; 24:30-34; 2Thess. 3:10; 1Timothy 5:8).
- This verse is a cure for worry. *How much time do you spend worrying about having what you need? About what will happen tomorrow or next week?*
- Men tend to be presumptuous or careless about the future.
- Women tend to try to solve all possible problems before they occur.