

**Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church**  
**The Lord's Prayer**  
**Class 1 of 10 - Teach Us to Pray**  
**March 20, 2016**

**Reflection:** *"Happy the people (however tiny the nucleus) who begin to see, or can be made to see, that they have the makings of the ministry, if not the minister, in their own hands, by prayer" – William Still, The Work of the Pastor, 1984*

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**Class Outline**

1. March 20 Teach Us To Pray (Brad Meyers)
2. March 27 Our Father in Heaven (Don Bennett)
3. April 3 Hallowed be Your Name (Steve Casselli)
4. April 10 Your Kingdom Come (Don Bennett)
5. April 17 Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (David Brittain)
6. April 24 Daily Bread (Don Bennett)
7. May 1 Forgiveness (Nick Cirino)
8. May 8 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (Brad Meyers)
9. May 15 The Kingdom and the Power and the Glory (Nick Cirino)
10. May 22 A Simple Way to Pray – (Steve Casselli)

**Resources**

Westminster Shorter & Larger Catechisms

John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book 3 Chapter 20

Martin Luther, A Simple Way to Pray

David Powlison, Praying Beyond the Sick List, and Modeling Grace through Prayer Requests

Phil Ryken, When You Pray

Thomas Watson, The Lord's Prayer

Matthew Henry & O. Palmer Robertson, A Way to Pray

Joel Beeke & Brian Najapfour, Taking Hold of God

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## 1. What is Prayer?

### A. Devotional Communication with God -

“Prayer is a form of communication between God and ourselves by which we set before him our desires, our joys, our complaints—in short, all that goes on in our heart. This being so, every time we call on the Lord we should be careful to descend into the depth of our heart and to speak to him from there, and not just with the throat or tongue” (John Calvin, *Truth for All Time*, p. 51).

### B. Privilege vs. Obligation

#### **William Law (1686-1781) *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*:**

I take it for granted, that every Christian, that is in health, is up early in the morning; for it is much more reasonable to suppose a person up early, because he is a Christian, than because he is a laborer, or a tradesman, or a servant, or has business that wants him. . . Let this therefore teach us to conceive how odious we must appear in the sight of Heaven, if we are in bed, shut up in sleep and darkness, when we should be praising God; and are such slaves to drowsiness, as to neglect our devotions for it.

For if he is to be blamed as a slothful drone, that rather chooses the lazy indulgence of sleep, than to perform his proper share of worldly business; how much more is he to be reproached, that would rather lie folded up in bed, than be raising up his heart to God in acts of praise and adoration! . . .

Sleep is such a dull, stupid state of existence, that even amongst mere animals, we despise them most which are most drowsy.

He, therefore, that chooses to enlarge the slothful indulgence of sleep, rather than be early at his devotions to God, chooses the dullest refreshment of the body; before the highest, noblest employment of the soul; he chooses that state which is a reproach to mere animals, rather than exercise which is the glory of Angels.

#### **Puritan Thomas Goodwin (1600-1680):**

Mutual communion is the soul of all true friendship; and a familiar conversation with a friend hath the greatest sweetness in it . . . (so) besides the common tribute of daily worship you owe to (God), take occasion to come into his presence on purpose to have communion with him. This is truly friendly, for friendship is most maintained and kept up by visits; and these, the more free and less occasioned by urgent business, or solemnity . . . the more friendly they are . . . We use to check our friends with this upbraiding: “You always come when you have some business, but when will you come to *see me*?” . . . When thou comest into his presence, be telling him still how well thou lovest him; labour to abound in expressions of that kind, that which . . . there is nothing more taking with the heart of any friend.

### C. Command and Promise

**Matthew 7:7-11** “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (See also Psalm 50:15)

- i. What is the command?
- ii. What is the promise?
- iii. What is the effect?

### D. Communion with the Triune God –

- i. Organization of the Institutes
- ii. Book III Begins - *“How does a person receive all the blessings of the salvation that Christ has purchased for us?”*
- iii. Digging for Treasure
- iv. Richness and Generosity of God
- v. Wants vs. Needs

## 2. Learning to Pray

**Luke 11:1-2** Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father...

- i. The Holy Spirit helps us
  - Romans 8:26-27 <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- ii. Jesus Prays for us
  - Hebrews 4 and 5 Jesus as High Priest
  - John 17 Jesus praying for us

iii. Book – “When You Pray”, Philip Graham Ryken –

- Praying like a hypocrite

Matthew 6:5-6 <sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- Praying like an orphan

Matthew 6:7-8 <sup>7</sup> “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

- Praying like God’s own dear child

*Matthew 6:9a This then is how you should pray (...The Lord’s Prayer)*

- It is a family prayer in three ways
  - It is talking to your Father
  - It comes from our older brother
  - It is exercised with your brothers and sisters

### 3. End or Objective.

- i. Glorify God - Growing high view of God –
- ii. Enjoy him forever - Growing enjoyment of our God in his care for us
- iii. Dialogue of Faith – Word and Prayer