

The Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition
HTPC CE, Winter 2016, Class 5

1. **Introduction and Review**

1. "Between these three petitions, now, there is a great affinity and likeness. The hallowing of God's Name is always attached to His reign, and the chief feature of His reign is to be acknowledged in the doing of His will. When you consider, however, how cold and apathetic we are in asking for the greatest things of all, such as these prayers here declare to us, you will agree that there is nothing superfluous in this arrangement...." John Calvin, *A Harmony of the Gospels*.

2. Structure of the Lord's Prayer

1. Preface: "Our Father in heaven..."

2. Three Petitions Relating to God:

A. "Hallowed Be your name..."

B. "Your kingdom come..."

C. "**Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**" Mt. 6:10b

3. Three Petitions Relating to Our Needs

4. Conclusion

3. Connection to the Second Petition: God's kingdom rule and reign on earth.

2. **The Third Petition**

1. Meaning:

Westminster 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 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.

1. **Thy will be done ("What is to be done?")**

1. God's Secret Will = God's Eternal Decrees.

2. God's Revealed Will = The Holy Scriptures.

1. Active Obedience: to know and do God's will actively in what he commands

1. Knowledge of Scripture directs obedience from the heart

2. Requires saving faith in Christ.

3. Why Active Obedience?
 1. Doers, not just hearers (Jas. 1:22-23)
 2. Bearing witness to Christ in us (John 10:25) and love for Christ (John 14:21)
 3. To become like Christ in sanctification
 4. Proclamation of the Gospel

2. Passive Obedience: patient submission to God's will in what he inflicts
 1. What may properly accompany patient submission to God's will
 1. Deep sense of affliction; 1 Pet. 5:6
 2. Grief (not immoderate)
 3. Complaining to God Ps. 142:1-2

 2. What is inconsistent with patient submission to God's will:
 1. Hard Thoughts of God
 2. Discontent with providence Gen. 4:6
 3. Murmuring/Grumbling Num. 21:5
 4. Spiritual Paralysis Ex. 6:9
 5. Self-Justification (Jonah 4:9); Sinning to escape affliction

 3. What does patient submission look like:
 1. Acknowledging the hand of God in affliction Job. 5:6
 2. Justifying God's actions Ezra 9:13
 3. Acceptance of God's discipline

2. **"On earth as it is in heaven" ("How do we do God's will acceptably?")**
 1. "...to pray that as everything done in heaven is at the command of God, and the angels are calmly disposed to do all that is right, so the earth may be brought under his authority, all rebellion and depravity having been extinguished." (Calvin, Institutes III-43).

 2. Example of God's service by the angels in heaven:
 1. Humbly (without pride of self)
 2. Regularly (according to Scripture): Ex. 25:40; Lev. 10:2
 3. Completely (without reservation): Num. 15:40; *But see* 2 Kng. 5:18; Ro. 7:21-25
 4. Sincerely (willingly from the heart): Ro. 6:17-8

2. Application:

1. **Scriptural Examples**

1. OT:

Ps. 100:2 (Serve the Lord with gladness! come into His presence with singing.)

Ps. 119:35-36 (Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain.)

Micah 6:6, 8 (With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?... He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?)

2. NT:

Eph. 1:17-18 (...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, [and] what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,....

Eph. 3:16 (...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith....)

Rom. 12:2, 11 (Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.... Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.)

2. **Corporate Worship:**

For the defense of the people of God against wicked opposition

For the conversion of unbelievers

For obedient faith among leaders and people: purity, grace, and peace

3. **Private Worship:**

1. To renounce the desires of the flesh, which is naturally opposed to God's will;

2. To deny self, and desire that God may rule in us according to His good pleasure, seeking His glory and not our own;

3. To nullify and suppress all affections that are opposed to God's will;

4. To be obey God's will, whatever it may be, gladly, patiently, and joyfully, including bearing patiently with

Suffering

Disappointment

Bitterness

Persecution

4. **Prayers for our culture and the world**

For fruitful ministry in domestic and worldwide missions and evangelism: for Christ to break down strongholds of unbelief; for many conversions and new disciples of Christ

Protection of those in evangelism and missions from persecution; for frustration of Satan and his disciples

