

## The Lord's Prayer – Fourth Petition

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

### Reflections

*So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (I Corinthians 10:31)*

*"[The Lord] is honored in the manner due him when he is acknowledged the author of all blessings, it follows that we ought so to receive all things from his hand as to accompany them with continual thanksgiving; and that there is no just reason for us to make use of his benefits, which flow and come to us from his generosity, with no other end, if we do not continually utter his praise and render him thanks." John Calvin<sup>1</sup>*

### Review: Structure and Design

- The Lord's Prayer sets before us \_\_\_\_\_ petitions with a preface and conclusion.
- The first three petitions have particular concern for \_\_\_\_\_.
- The second three petitions have particular concern for \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is the meaning and significance of this design? (Consider, I Corinthians 10:31)

### "Give us this day our daily bread..."

- Dependence
  - We entrust ourselves wholly to our Father's care in all things necessary for life in this present life—even as we entrust ourselves wholly to him for the life to come.
  - Consider the relation of this petition to Matthew 6:25-34.

*"... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all ... but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."*

- Contentment

*"Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and fatherly disposal in every condition." -- Jeremiah Burroughs*

- Why "this day" and why "daily bread"

---

<sup>1</sup> Calvin, *Institutes* III,XX.28.

- We cultivate contentment with the measure that our Heavenly Father has given us **each day** and we bridle our desires for fleeting things.
- Humility
  - Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 17-19; Matthew 4:4
  - James 4:13-17
- Gratitude
  - We have no “right” in ourselves to his daily blessings--they are not ‘owed’ to us. (Deuteronomy 8:18)
  - We receive from our Father out of his lavish mercy and covenant faithfulness that which is a simple and free gift--even when we obtain it the exercise of skills that we possess--in that it is only by his blessing and provision that we prosper in our labors.

### Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q. 193. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?**

A. In the fourth petition, (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread,*) acknowledging, that in Adam, and by our own sin, we have forfeited our right to all the outward blessings of this life, and deserve to be wholly deprived of them by God, and to have them cursed to us in the use of them; and that neither they of themselves are able to sustain us, nor we to merit, or by our own industry to procure them; but prone to desire, get, and use them unlawfully: we pray for ourselves and others, that both they and we, waiting upon the providence of God from day to day in the use of lawful means, may, of his free gift, and as to his fatherly wisdom shall seem best, enjoy a competent portion of them; and have the same continued and blessed unto us in our holy and comfortable use of them, and contentment in them; and be kept from all things that are contrary to our temporal support and comfort.