

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Forgive us our debts"

Review

- ✦ Purpose of the Lord's Prayer
- ✦ Structure of the Lord's Prayer
- ✦ Theme of first set of petitions: that God would work to glorify His name
- ✦ Theme of second set of petitions: that God would graciously provide what we need

Review

- ✦ Order of second set of petitions
 - ✦ Declares our helplessness to obtain even our daily food.
 - ✦ Prepares us to see our helplessness regarding spiritual matters
 - ✦ Shows us that the God who graciously gives physical needs will also graciously give spiritual needs

Debt

- ✦ What is "debt?" As we use the term, to what does it refer?
- ✦ What do we owe to God?
- ✦ Why do we owe it?
 - ✦ Does God coerce it from us?
 - ✦ Did we buy something from God and not pay?
 - ✦ How does creation fall into this?

Debt

- ✦ "God gave to Adam a law of universal obedience written in his heart, and a particular precept of not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; by which He bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it."
- ✦ (Baptist Confession of 1689; 19.1)

"Forgive Us..."

- ✦ Greek is *aphiemi* - "to let something go."
- ✦ Used of death (letting go of the spirit); of allowing something previously forbidden; of divorce (letting go of the spouse); of a loud cry (letting go of the voice).
- ✦ In forgiveness, it is the idea of letting go of the debt of sin, wherein God no longer holds the debt against us.
- ✦ The "us" shows that this prayer is meant to be corporately prayed; and that we also pray that God might save/forgive others.

"As We Forgive..."

- ✦ Not "since we forgive" but "as...."
- ✦ Meaning is "in like manner" or "in the same way." The request is that we are asking God to treat us the same way that we treat others.
- ✦ See Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

"As We Forgive..." - Forgiveness As A Concept

- ✦ Forgiveness refers to benevolence, even toward our enemies. (Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:17-21). This is required whether the person asks for forgiveness or not.
- ✦ Forgiveness refers to reconciliation, when sought by the offending party. (Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 17:1-5).
- ✦ In some cases, there must also be acts by the offender to bring about restoration. (Matthew 5:23-26).

Applications

- ✦ As we are helpless to provide even our daily bread, so we are helpless to pay our debt to God.
- ✦ If we are unable to show forgiveness, it may prove that we have never experienced forgiveness, or do not appreciate the extent of our sin.

Applications

- ✦ If we "hold the debt" against another, even our enemies, we are to treat them with grace. See Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14, 19-20.
- ✦ Who is your enemy? Who has hurt you the worst? Who owes you the greatest debt of repentance and "making things right?"
- ✦ What if you are the debtor to another? Matthew 5:23-26.