

## Large Catechism Lesson 21

### Part 3: Lord's Prayer | Petitions 1-3

#### **Opening Discussion: Prayer – the Battle Cry of the Faith**

When you hear the phrase “spiritual warfare” what comes to mind?

The moment we turn to God in prayer, we turn our back on Satan.

-This is a declaration of war.

The Lord's Prayer engages in spiritual warfare.

*“The Christian is sent back into the world, the implementation of Christ's reign has several ramifications for the Christian life. Having been brought under lordship of Christ to live in faith by receiving his gracious gifts, the Christian finds himself or herself embroiled in a spiritual warfare and struggle for faith.”<sup>1</sup>*

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Petition-Hallowed be Thy Name**

¶35-48

When was God's name given to us?

How is God's name kept holy?

a) God's name is made holy by listening to God (ie. Preached and shared Word)

-That is how we find out who God is.

b) God's name is made holy when we live lives according to it.

-Who are the parents of that child?

-How much more so with our heavenly Father?

How do ungodly doctrine and an ungodly life create atheists?

Bishops, tyrants, enthusiasts

-How have each of these misused God's name?

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Petition-Thy kingdom come**

¶ 49-58

What is God's kingdom?

-Is it a place?

The word “king” is difficult to comprehend in our setting.

-The Old Testament speaks of God as king and ruler.

Kings were supposed to be fathers of their people/nations.

-Rule of a loving father who protects and rules us.

-We are praying for God to rule us in his Word that we may see him as our benevolent Father.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid, 164.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Petition-Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

¶ 59-70

So far we have prayed for hallowing God's name and appreciating his rule.

-Now we desire his will to be done.

We pray that God will break and hinder all plots that seek to destroy our relationship to our Creator.

-Praying for God's strength that keeps us ultimately in the faith.

-Reminds us of the difficult tension: God is responsible. We are responsible.

-“In some ways, prayer becomes both the evidence and test of faith.”<sup>2</sup>

What does Luther have to say about suffering?

How does the devil regard our prayers?

What does Luther mean by the holy cross?

When it says “our Gospel”, what is meant by that expression?

### Closing Discussion: Satan is our enemy

This cannot be emphasized enough throughout our study of the Catechism.

The devil is out to destroy Christians.

-He works to prevent us from receiving and enjoying the benefits Christ has accomplished.

-*The Screwtape Letters* | *Perelandra* by C.S. Lewis

The petitions of the Lord's Prayer counteract Satan's work

-Satan seeks to deprive us of God's name (1<sup>st</sup> Petition).

-2<sup>nd</sup>

-3<sup>rd</sup>

-4<sup>th</sup>

-5<sup>th</sup>

-6<sup>th</sup>

-Deliver us from the evil one (7<sup>th</sup> Petition)

The Lord's Prayer acknowledges and aids in the struggle of unbelief.

-This prayer gives sustenance on the battlefield.

*“In the Lord's Prayer, we pray for faith against unfaith. In this way the Lord's Prayer has a way of bringing a deep comfort to people battling with an abiding sense of their own unbelief. In the Lord's Prayer, the Christian prays for faith to receive the blessings enumerated in the Creed and prays against Satan who would undermine faith by depriving the Christian of Christ's blessings.”<sup>3</sup>*

How are theologians made?

-Oratio | Meditatio | Tentatio

-Who then is the great teacher of theologians?

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2 Arand, 164.

3 Arand, 165.