

Sovereign Grace Church
“Kingdom, Power and Glory” outline
September 30, 2018

HC 128 & 129

As we come to the end of our reflections on the teaching of the Heidelberg Catechism we are finishing our consideration of the Lord's Prayer as recorded in Matthew chapter six. Jesus offered this prayer, not as a command to pray these very words....but as a paradigm of the sorts of ideas that should inform our prayers no matter their content. We have considered six basic requests which all believers must bring before their Lord and Savior. In coming to the end of the prayer we encounter the culminating mindset that is to inform our confidence in making these requests: “For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Interestingly, as fitting and God-exalting as this section of the prayer is, it is not found in many manuscripts and versions...and where it is found the wording is not always in the same form. However, whether it was or was not in the original message of Jesus in His sermon on the mount, it surely is recognized by all Christians as true and by those who know the Scriptures as being contained at various places therein. We will consider why it may be that this section was added to the prayer by the early church and the meaning contained in the words during this morning's message.

Review of the Lord's Prayer

- 1. Did Jesus actually say this?**
I Chron. 29: 11-13

- 2. Thine is the Kingdom... Matt. 6:33**
 - **Kingdom Goal: New Heavens and a New Earth**
Rev. 21: 1-3

- 3. And the Power... Rom. 1:4; Matt 28: 18**
 - **Power vs. Authority**

 - **Power and Resurrection**

- Power and Us Jn 14: 12-14
4. And the Glory...forever I Cor. 10: 31
- Glory (doxa)
Jn 1: 14; I Thess 2: 19-20
 - God before Me Psm 115:1
Gen. 3: 5
 - How do we glorify God? WSC 1
Psm 73: 25-26
5. Amen So be it. Truly, This is sure to be.
Isa. 65: 17-25

Questions for Reflection and Conversation

1. How do you use the Lord's Prayer in your life outside of liturgical worship? Do you recite it at times during the day? Do you spend timing praying through the various parts of the prayer? How does the Lord's Prayer inform your own prayers?
2. Do you agree that these words may not have been included in the original writing of Matthew and yet still be authoritative? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean for you to participate as Christ's disciple in helping Him in His purpose of redeeming Creation? Why does it make a difference in pursuing this work that we pursue it from a Christ-like character? How can this be done if our pursuit of a Christ-like character is in process? What does going to heaven when we die have to do with reclaiming God's creation?
4. Do you utilize the power available to you as a disciple of Christ in your life here and now? How? What does learning about this power have to do with the exercise of this power? What is required to exercise this power?
5. Do you see yourself as a manifestation of God's glory? How can this be if we are sinners?
6. Why do you close your prayers with the word "*amen*"? If you don't say it, have you prayed?