

Title: The Lord's Prayer: Forgive Us Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors

Passage: Matthew 6:12

Passage: Matthew 6:9-15

Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [And Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.] For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Review: The Lord's Prayer

First petition: God's name be hallowed

Second petition: God's kingdom come

Third petition: God's will be done

Fourth petition: Give us our daily bread

Overview:

I. Problem of our debts

II. Plea of forgiveness

III. Place of forgiveness

I. PROBLEM OF OUR DEBTS

Debt

- word sometimes translated as “sin” or “trespasses”
- Greek word: specifically means “debt” (There is a different word for “trespass”)
 - Trespass = implies theologically infringing on God's property rights (but one can imagine one trespass and get out, which is not true)
 - Debt = can never get out

Our debt to God

- We owe everything to God. Everything is loan from God as we are stewards

Moral debt

- We sin (violation of God's law)
- How? See Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount. We often place God second place or lower priority and we often think/act improperly.
- Illustration (R.C. Sproul): Little kid at ice cream parlor. He orders two scoops. Is told it is \$2. Boy only has \$1. Boy then runs out of the store.
 - There is both the monetary debt (\$1) but also moral debt (crime of theft)
- Here: Jesus paid the penalty on the cross. God the Father could have chosen not to accept the payment but continue to pursue justice/judgment. But in His mercy and grace, the payment has been accepted!

II. PLEA FOR FORGIVENESS

- God has called us to obey him perfectly and completely.
- When we sin (even once), we are in debt to God. We are in moral debt to God (more we can imagine)

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

Romans 6:23a

For the wages of sin is death

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Spiritual death

- Apart from Christ, we are spiritually dead.
- Christianity is not about after death but about now/today.
- Any happiness or contentment apart from Christ is only a shadow or hollow.
- In contrast: there can be joy and peace beyond understanding through Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:7-9

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

III. PROVISION OF FORGIVENESS

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

How? Cancellation of debt on the cross

Colossians 2:13-14

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, *nailing it to the cross*.

- In ancient times, they canceled a debt by taking the piece of paper and nailing it.
- Cancel = wipe away

Psalms 103:12

as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Question: Why do we need to still ask for God's forgiveness if all our debts have been paid?

- Doctrine of Justification
 - When you put your trust in Jesus, God justifies you and declares you righteous; He gives you a new nature.
- Doctrine of Sanctification
 - But you still remain here on earth and still have old nature so need to continually ask for forgiveness to keep your fellowship with God on the right direction
 - Fighting sin with daily failures but continue in spiritual growth and maturity in Christ.
- Doctrine of Glorification
 - When made completely new in Jesus' Second Coming.

Proper perspective:

- Constant reminder that we don't deserve anything from God yet we have been blessed by God out of His grace and forgiveness.

Resulting disposition of the heart

- Granting forgiveness to others

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Context of Adoption

- We have been adopted by God as His child.
- When we sin, the relationship is broken and restoration/reconciliation is necessary.
- Likewise, we should continue to forgive our fellow brothers and sisters. Or we will not have joy of our salvation in our hearts with lingering bitterness and anger.
- Question: Do you have a forgiving spirit?
 - Not view or treat the person who has hurt you based on what has been done but instead view as God views him/her.
 - View of the person through the Gospel is impossibly done apart from God.
- Journey of forgiveness
 - True freedom and joy can only come when move to God in areas of hurt and pain.
 - Contrast: Unforgiveness can eat so much of your life.
 - Turn to the cross that you may find life, power, and protection through God's grace and mercy.

Related Verses:

Sanctification

Colossians 3:5

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Confession of sins

Psalms 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Proverbs 28:13

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:3-4

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Matthew 18:32-35

Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”