

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

## *Forgive Us Our Sins*



-- Read Luke 11:1-4

-- Pray

### -- Review

-- Part 1 – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

-- How we pray matters.

-- The Lord’s Prayer is so important because it is God’s perfect framework for prayer.

-- Part 2 – “Our Father in Heaven” (v. 2a)

-- Main idea: Pray affectionately, like a child to His Father.

-- All prayer begins with the knowledge that God cares.

-- Part 3 – “Hallowed Be Your Name”

-- Main Idea: Pray reverently as a worshipper to his God.

-- The ultimate purpose of all prayer is to bring glory to God.

-- Part 4 – “Your Kingdom Come”

-- Main Idea: Pray victoriously as a warrior to his King.

-- “Your Kingdom come” is a cry to battle.

-- Part 5 – “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”

-- Main Idea: Pray reliantly, as a seeker to his perfect Source.

-- Ask for assistance, Be content with the basics, Call upon God with confidence, Declare your dependence.

-- **Big Idea: Pray repentantly, as a sinner to his Savior.**

### 1.) Recognize your malady.

-- **We are all sinners who deserve punishment for our sins.**

-- This idea is so reviled in our culture that even churches that claim the name of Christ are unwilling to preach it.

- It is, nonetheless, the undeniable truth of Scripture.
- Romans 3:10-20 (NLT) – *“As the Scriptures say, ‘No one is good—not even one. No one has real understanding; no one is seeking God. All have turned away from God; all have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one.’ ‘Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their speech is filled with lies.’ ‘The poison of a deadly snake drips from their lips.’ ‘Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.’ ‘They are quick to commit murder. Wherever they go, destruction and misery follow them. They do not know what true peace is.’ ‘They have no fear of God to restrain them.’ Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses and to bring the entire world into judgment before God. For no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands. For the more we know God's law, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying it.*
- All of us have rightly earned the wrath of God’s righteous judgment.
- Psalm 130:3-4 – *“If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.”*
- **The whole Bible, Old Testament and New, points to the forgiveness of sin in Christ.**
  - Acts 10:42-43 – *“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*
  - Luke 24:44-47 – *“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”*
  - The whole message of Scripture paints a masterful picture of forgiveness.
  - In the same way, all the ministries and teachings of our church should point to the forgiveness of Christ.
    - Why do we give to the poor and send rescue missions to Haiti? So that the Haitians might know about the forgiveness of sin in Christ.
    - Why do we send missionaries around the world? To tell about the forgiveness of sin.

- Those who are helped through physical means are no better off in terms of eternity unless they come to terms with forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.
- **There is nothing you or I or anyone else needs more than we need forgiveness from God.**
  - Notice, right after Jesus tells us to pray for what our most basic physical needs (our daily bread), He instructs us to pray for our most basic spiritual need—forgiveness.
  - Recap Luke 5:17-26
    - Clearly, as evinced by the actions of his friends, this paralytic’s physical condition was desperate.
    - Yet, according to Jesus, his spiritual need for forgiveness was far greater and more profound.
- **Christ, and Christ alone, can soothe the guilty soul.**
  - In all the so-called “wisdom” of the world, there is no means anywhere by which a sinner can eradicate his guilty conscience.
    - The amusements and diversions of this world simply cannot stem the tide.
    - Secular psychotherapy will never be enough.
  - Non-Christian religions cannot answer the stain of human sin.
    - In Islam, among the 99 names of allah, there is none so intimate as “Father.”
    - Buddhism quote from the Dhammapada – “Not in the sky, not in the midst of the sea, not if we enter into the clefts of the mountains, is there known a spot in the whole world, where a man might be free from an evil deed.”

Is there really no spot in the whole world where a man can be free from his evil deeds? Is that sincerely our lot in this life? Nowhere to go? What, then, does that mean for the teenage girl agonizing about the night upon which she forfeited her purity in the back of her boyfriend’s car? Nowhere to go? Is there, then, no help for the man crushed by his decision to abandon his wedding vows for a fleeting moment of pleasure? Nowhere to go? Where, then, is there hope for woman agonizing over her impulsive decision to abort the baby growing inside her? Is there no spot in the whole world?

All around us every day, people daily drown themselves in cable TV, or internet pornography, or trashy novels, or video games, or gossip, or a thousand other worldly diversions, because in the so-called “wisdom” of this world there is no place where they can find refuge from the grief of their guilt and the ruin if their of regret. So, believing that there is no foundation for real forgiveness, we abandon ourselves to anything diversionary and everything false. Indeed, so much of the spiritual and emotional paralysis of this lost world is wrapped up in that single Buddhist assertion: “Not in the sky, not in the midst of the sea, not if we enter into the clefts of the mountains, is there known a spot in the whole world, where a man might be free from his evil deed.”

“Nowhere!” says the world. “Forget about you sin, for there is nowhere to run.” “Ignore your guilt, for there is no place to hide.” “Sear your conscience, swallow your shame, and satisfy yourself, for there is nowhere at all where you can be free of the guilt of your sin.”

Ah, but by the grace of God there is a glorious place where we can go... Indeed, there is a mountain of sweet mercy to which all of us are summoned... There is a refuge of redemption for all who will receive it... There is a stronghold of salvation because God sent a Savior... There is a cure for our condition in the cross of Jesus Christ... There is forgiveness by Father through the sacrifice of His Son.

- Listen to the testimony of David. After all his evil plotting and scheming that led to his adultery with Bathsheeba, the murder of her husband, a royal cover-up, and the degradation of his family, David writes in Psalm 103:
  - Psalm 103:1-3 – *“Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.”*
  - David understood clearly that the chief benefit of the Lord is the forgiveness of sin.
  - Do you and I understand it this morning?
- Is your conscience cleansed by Christ, or are you relying on some good deed you do or some religious ritual you might perform to save your guilty soul? Do you recognize the malady of sin at work in you, or have you bought the lie that you can get by on your own?
- Praying “Forgive us our sins” means recognizing our desperate need for the forgiveness that only comes through Christ.

## 2.) Repent meaningfully.

- **It can be difficult for us to understand biblical repentance in our halfhearted, easy-apology culture.**
  - The goofball in the video this morning is not too far afield from the repentance people typically offer.
  - Think of the politicians or celebrities who offer apologies at news conferences for no greater purpose than self-preservation.
  - Think of the uncomfortable spectacle of kids forced to offer insincere apologies: Why do we parents and teachers do this? Aren't we teaching our children to be liars and opportunists when we force them to make fake apologies?
- **Before anyone can meaningfully repent, he must understand and acknowledge the offense of his sin.**
  - God cannot and will not forgive impenitent people, nor would we want Him to.

Imagine a man who had committed a terrible crime for which he was sentenced to life in prison. After he had served many years, some of his family and friends secure a petition to have him pardoned and set free. Because of this, the man is granted an interview with the pardoning judge, who asks him, "If you were pardoned and freed, what would you do?" The man defiantly answers, "The first thing I would do would be to kill the prosecuting attorney and that jury that found me guilty! Then I would hunt up the judge that sentenced me and shoot him! Of course he would not be pardoned. So it is with God. By His justice, He simply cannot pardon people who do not repent, nor would we want Him to do so.

- 2 Timothy 2:19 – *"God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.'"*
  - We cannot love both Jesus Christ and wickedness. If you know something to be wicked and yet you love it nonetheless, then you have not repented and Christ is not in you.
  - James 4:4 – *"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."*
- 1 John 1:9-10 – *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we*

*have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

-- This is why we cannot proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ without emphasizing the curse of sin.

**-- Repentance means hating our sin and loving Jesus Christ.**

-- Romans 12:9 – *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”*

-- “Sincere” love for Christ is measured not only by our love for Him but also by our hatred for sin.

-- Acts 2:36-38 – *“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.’”*

-- The glory of repentance is the forgiveness of God.

### **3.) Receive God’s mercy.**

-- Sincere repentance in Christ results in the eternal glory of divine forgiveness.

-- Psalm 32:5 – *“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

-- Whatever we think we need most in this life, we need forgiveness more.

There has never been nor will there ever be anything offered to you that is more valuable than forgiveness. It is by forgiveness that you are ransomed and by it you are redeemed. It is the entry point to eternity, and no one will ever inherit the kingdom of God without it. // It is history’s most precious gift because it comes to us at history’s highest cost. It is history’s most gracious gift because it is available to us only through the perfect mercy of Christ.

-- The pinnacle of mercy is the cross of Christ.

-- 1 John 2:1-2 – *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

-- Atoning sacrifice = Propitiation – Christ is the sacrifice that appeases the wrath of God rightly due to you and me.

-- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

-- Summary

Thus, praying “Forgive us our sins” means praying repentantly, as a sinner to his Savior. It means praying with such brokenness over the malady of sin that we sincerely repent of our sins and receive the sublime peace that can only come through the marvelous mercy Jesus Christ poured out on the cross.

Have you ever really prayed, “Father, forgive me my sins?” Would you pray it with me this morning? Let us pray...

-- **Memory Verse**

-- Acts 2:38 – *“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*