

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done

Prayer: Something Understood
Week Three
Christ the King Adult Education
April 28, 2019

The petitions are meant to shape our priorities

- God's glory and government come first
- Interrelated: God's glory implies his lordship; the nature of his kingdom as it is in heaven and as we long for it to be on earth instruct us about his glory.

HC Q.123: The second petition is "Thy kingdom come." This petition asks that we might be governed by the Word and Spirit so that we may be increasingly more submitted to God. It asks that God might advance the cause of the church, and destroy the works of the world, the flesh, and the devil, until his kingdom comes in its fullness.

- Simply put – the kingdom has come where the King has his way.
- We pray here for the church – for its purity and peace (cf. Ps. 122)

WSC Q. 26. How does Christ execute the office of a king?

A. Christ executes the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

- Who are these enemies?
- World
- Flesh
- Devil

Question for discussion: When we pray “Thy Kingdom Come,” are we praying for the Last Judgment, or for God to govern the world now?

- Eschatological expectations shape our prayer, and vice versa
- To pray only for the final coming of the kingdom is to neglect prayer for God to bring peace in governing the world now
- But to neglect to pray for Christ's return is to forget our status as exiles and the essential antithesis between the City of God and the City of Man

HC Q. 124: The third petition is "Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven." This means that we are to ask that we and all of humanity would renounce our wills and obey the Lord's will without complaint, and that all would carry out their callings as "willing and faithfully as the angels in heaven."

- That we would renounce our own wills is a great, never-ending struggle
- Requires faith, not willpower or self-denial – we will not renounce our will until we truly believe God's is better
- A prayer to do what God commands, to will what we wills, to love what he loves

"Compared with your will, ours is never good but always evil. Your will is at all times the best, to be cherished and desired above everything else. Therefore have mercy upon us, O dear Father, and let nothing happen just because it is our own will. Grant and teach us a deeply based patience in times when our will is prevented from happening or comes to nothing or when someone contradicts our will by what he says or does not say, does or leaves undone. Help us not to become angry or vexed, not to curse, complain, protest, condemn, disparage, or contradict [when what we will is not done]. . . .Grant us grace to bear willingly bear all sorts of sickness, poverty, disgrace, suffering, and adversity and to recognize that in this your divine will is crucifying our will. Help us also to endure injustice gladly and preserve us from taking revenge."

– Martin Luther

"Here is not a question of his secret will, by which he controls all things and directs them to their end. For even though Satan and men violently inveigh against him, he knows that by his incomprehensible plan he not only turns aside their attacks but so orders it that he may do through them what he has decreed. But here God's other will is to be noted--namely, that to which voluntary obedience corresponds--and for that reason, heaven is by name compared to earth, for the angels . . . willingly obey God, and are intent upon carrying out his commands . . . We are therefore bidden to desire that, just as in heaven nothing is done apart from God's good pleasure, and the angels dwell together in all peace and uprightness, the earth be in like manner subject to such a rule, with all arrogance and wickedness brought to an end."

- John Calvin