

INTRODUCTION

We have been learning about forgiveness of sins, and about praying to God, our heavenly Father, that He forgive us, and help us to forgive others.

We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But God has sent forth His own son the propitiation for sins, through His blood. Jesus Christ has died on the cross for us sinners, taking our punishment on Himself. So, God is now perfectly just in forgiving the sins of anyone who believes in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ preaches “repent and be forgiven” to all men everywhere. Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ, returning to God with all his heart, prays, “forgive us our debts,” and can be sure of forgiveness from God.

As we read on in the Lord’s Prayer, we find that fifth petition about forgiveness connected to the sixth petition with the conjunction “And.” The fifth petition, about forgiveness, is logically connected with the sixth petition, regarding temptation and evil.

Consider two things about that

1. when God has forgiven our sins, we need more help from Him of another kind regarding sin
2. it does not make sense to seek God’s help in dealing with temptation and evil, if you are not seeking first for Him to forgive you

We heard one of the brothers, when he was newly converted, testifying to that very thing. He had been praying that the Lord would help him not to sin. But he was not praying the Lord would forgive him. Finally, by God’s grace working powerfully in him, he realized that he needed first to be forgiven. That’s what he testified standing here before the congregation.

TEXT

Matthew 6:13a And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

Luke 11:4b ... And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

BODY

- I. In the Sixth Petition, We Pray in the Negative and the Affirmative
 - A. See the two-part structure of this petition
 1. lead us not into temptation; but
 2. deliver us from evil
 - B. The other petitions are only in the affirmative
 - C. The first half of this petition, therefore, has a strange feel to it
 1. I have sometimes stumbled over this; maybe you have, too
 2. let's think about this
 - D. This petition is not essentially different from the others
 1. the others could have been phrased in the negative and the affirmative
 - a) do not make us go hungry, but give us this day our daily bread
 - b) do not count our sins against us, but forgive us our debts
 2. this one could be phrased only in the affirmative, like the other petitions: deliver us from evil.
 - E. But our Lord Jesus knows best
 1. how to speak to us
 2. what way of conceiving this petition is most useful to us
 - F. APPLICATION
 1. don't stumble over the way this is phrased in the negative
 2. be thankful for the fuller expression this petition has than do the others
 3. take seriously the matter we are here taught to pray for

- II. In the Sixth Petition, We Pray Regarding Temptation to Sin
 - A. Not just about sin, but about temptation to sin
 1. acknowledging our weakness
 2. we are looking for His help in avoiding temptation
 - B. There are three sources of temptation to sin
 1. the devil
 - a) tempted our Lord Jesus - Mt 4:1-11
 - (1) the devil tempted Jesus to obey his own desires rather than the word of God
 - (2) the devil tempted Jesus to presume upon God, to use the word of God not as intended
 - (3) the devil tempted Jesus to worship something else besides God
 - b) tempts us
 - (1) laying snares for us
 - (2) walking about like a lion seeking whom he may devour
 2. the world tempts us
 - a) Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph
 - b) wicked people invite us to come along with them
 3. the lusts in our own flesh tempt us
 - a) James 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.
 - C. We pray to be forgiven our sins, then pray also to be helped in not continuing to sin.

- III. In the Sixth Petition, We Pray in the Negative that We Would Not Enter Into Temptation
- A. You heard the proverbial wisdom about temptation phrased in this way, in Proverbs 4, read a few minutes ago
 - 1. Proverbs 4:14-15 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.
 - B. The New Testament scriptures continue that way of expression - temptation as something we are not to enter into
 - C. I know it is not good English to say “enter into,” because it is redundant; but when our Lord Jesus taught us to pray about this, He used a redundant expression
 - 1. Matthew 6:13
 - a) “Lead” is not the simple word for “lead,”
 - b) it is a compound meaning lead into or bring into
 - c) it cannot really be expressed that way in English, here in this line of the Lord’s Prayer
 - d) but we still should think of it that way
 - 2. Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
 - a) see here temptation that comes upon us from the actions of evil men, under the influence of the devil
 - b) Peter will be tempted
 - (1) to do violence when it is not called for
 - (2) to deny Christ
 - D. 1 Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
 - 1. see here temptation that comes upon us from our evil desires, if we love the things of the world
 - E. Temptation is to be conceived of as something we enter into
 - 1. by the actions of wicked men, when we are careless to be ready for it
 - 2. by our own actions, when we obey our lusts
 - F. So, we pray that God will not lead us into temptation

- IV. In the Sixth Petition, We Pray In the Affirmative that God Would Deliver Us from Evil
- A. Deliver - to rescue; to save
 - B. Normally taking the form of helping us to flee
 1. flee fornication
 2. flee idolatry
 3. flee youthful lusts
 - C. 1 Corinthians 10:12-14 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
 1. see the pattern here
 - a) God has provided us the record of how the Israelites sinned
 - b) we take the warning not to be prideful and complacent regarding temptation
 - c) when temptation overtakes us, we trust God to provide a way of escape
 - d) we take that way of escape, and flee temptation by it
 2. see how the Lord's prayer applies
 - a) when temptation is not overtaking us, we pray, "lead us not into temptation"
 - b) when temptation is upon us, we pray, "deliver us from evil"
 - D. 2 Peter 2:7-9 and **delivered [G4506 *rhuomai*]** righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)-- 9 then the Lord knows how **to deliver [G4506 *rhuomai*]** the godly out of temptations [G3986 *peirasmos*] and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,
 1. Lot, by his carelessness, had entered right into temptations
 2. the Lord delivered Lot out of those temptations
 3. note that Lot, by carelessly entering into temptations, ruined the members of his own family
 - E. From "evil" or from "the evil one"
 1. Broadus: It can never be certainly determined whether the phrase is masculine or neuter in this passage and in Joh_17:15
 2. we are praying that we be delivered from the snares of Satan, the evil one
 3. we are praying that we be delivered from the influence and power of evil men
 4. we are praying that we be delivered from the doing of what is evil

CONCLUSION

First, we need to see the evil of our own ways, the evil in ourselves, the evil we have done, turn from it, and, believing in Jesus, pray that God will forgive us our debts, and help us to forgive our debtors. Then, we also need to pray that God will deliver us from evil; that He will so help us that we not even enter into temptation

9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2023-02-26

Matthew 4:1-11

First temptation - to care more about our physical desires than about the word of God

Second temptation - to presume upon God; to make of His word whatever we want

Third temptation - to worship the creation rather than the Creator

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 23

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Proverbs 4:1-27

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 500 "He Leadeth Me" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 501 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Rita - Trinity 644 "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

lead

G1533 *eisphero* from G1519 and G5342 lit. in+carry

temptation

G3986 *peirasmos* from G3985

G3985 *peirazo* to test from G3984

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into **temptation**: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Luke 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into **temptation**.

Luke 22:28 Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

1 Timothy 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into **temptation** and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Proverbs 4:14-15 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

evil G4190 *poneros*

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

deliver G4506 *rhuomai*

2 Timothy 4:16-18 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I **was delivered [G4506 rhuomai]** out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord **will deliver [G4506 rhuomai]** me from every **evil [G4190 poneros]** work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

2 Peter 2:7-9 and **delivered [G4506 rhuomai]** righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)-- 9 then the Lord knows how **to deliver [G4506 rhuomai]** the godly out of temptations [G3986 peirasmos] and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

Trapp:

...we can no further shun sin than we do temptation thereunto.

Baptist Catechism:

we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin (Mat 26:31), or support and deliver us when we are tempted (2Co 12:8)

Larger Catechism:

acknowledging that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations, but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them; we pray, that God would so overrule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh, and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, forever.

Heidelberg Catechism:

That is: In ourselves we are so weak that we cannot stand even for a moment.[1] Moreover, our sworn enemies-- the devil,[2] the world,[3] and our own flesh[4]-- do not cease to attack us. Wilt Thou, therefore, uphold and strengthen us by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, so that in this spiritual war[5] we may not go down to defeat, but always firmly resist our enemies, until we finally obtain the complete victory.

