### Pray, then, in this way - Part II

Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Prayer / Matthew 6:9–13 In Matt 6:9-13, Jesus teaches His disciples the proper, God-honoring, and worshipful way to pray.

## **Pre-sermon Comments**

<u>2 Timothy 3:1–4</u> (LSB) <sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, without gentleness, without love for good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

People have presuppositions, and they will live more consistently on the basis of these presuppositions than even they themselves may realize...Their presuppositions also provide the basis for their values and therefore the basis for their decisions. ~ Francis Schaeffer

Most people catch their presuppositions from their family and surrounding society the way a child catches measles. ~ Francis Schaeffer

"As a man thinketh, so is he," is really most profound. An individual is not just the product of the forces around him. He has a mind, an inner world...[Our] inner thought world determines [our] outward action.

Philippians 2:10–11 (LSB)  $^{10}$  so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  $^{11}$  and that every Tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

J.C. Ryle: We must wrestle earnestly in prayer, like men contending with a deadly enemy for life.

<u>James 3:17</u> (LSB) <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruits, without doubting, without hypocrisy.

### **Discussion Questions**

Francis Schaeffer's concept of "presuppositions" was highlighted in the sermon. In your own words, what are presuppositions, and why are they significant for Christians?

In <u>2 Timothy 3:1-4</u>, Paul warns Timothy about the last days. How do you see these descriptions reflected in today's society? Are there specific areas in your life where you've observed these traits becoming more prevalent?

<u>Philippians 2:10-11</u> speaks of a future time when every knee will bow to Jesus. How does this future reality influence the way you pray today?

Pastor Brandon mentioned that our presuppositions are often shaped by family and society. How has your upbringing influenced your worldview, and in what ways have you had to reshape your presuppositions as you grow in your faith?

The introduction touched on cultural pressures, such as temptations for men and women and the impact of social media and public schools on our children. How do you see these pressures affecting Christian families today? How can we respond as believers?

The act of praying reflects one's worldview, especially an understanding of God's power and authority. How has your understanding of prayer changed as you have matured in Christ? Do you feel that your prayers reflect a true reliance on God's will?

## Sermon Text

Matthew 6:9–13 (LSB) <sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> 'Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> 'And do not lead us into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']

## **Series Review**

Matthew 5:1 (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

<u>Matthew 5:20</u> (LSB) <sup>20</sup> "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:48 (LSB) <sup>48</sup> "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

<u>James 2:10</u> (LSB) <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

Romans 3:23 (LSB) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<u>Galatians 3:24–25</u> (LSB) <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor unto Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

## **Discussion Questions**

Pastor Brandon mentions that Jesus was teaching a worldview that contradicted the Jewish leadership's focus on a works-based righteousness. How would you describe the worldview that Jesus presented to His disciples? In what ways does it different from the worldviews you encounter today?

Pastor Brandon referenced <u>Galatians 3:24-25</u>, which explains that the Law points us to Christ so that we may be justified by faith. How does this truth provide comfort or assurance in your walk? Why is it important to recognize our inability to be justified by our own works?

## **Section Outline**

In <u>Matthew 6:1</u>, Jesus introduced three illustrative warnings depicting the grave danger of self-aggrandizing righteousness (or religiosity).

He warns all His disciples (including us) to beware of:

- Self-Centered Donations (Matt 6:2-4) [review]
- Self-Centered Devotions (Matt 6:5-15) [today's sermon]
- Self-Centered Deprivation (Matt 6:16-18) [future Sermon]

## Section Review (Matt 6:1)

<u>Matthew 6:1</u> (LSB) <sup>1</sup> "Beware of doing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

## **Beware of Self-Centered Donations (Matt 6:2-4)**

Matthew 6:2–4 (LSB) <sup>2</sup> "Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

## **Beware of Self-Centered Devotions (Matt 6:5-15)**

Matthew 6:5–8 (LSB) <sup>5</sup> "And when you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup> "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that

they will be heard for their many words. 8 "Therefore, do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

## Pray, then, in this way

Matthew 6:9 (LSB) <sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

### Sermon Outline

In <u>Matt 6:9-13</u>, Jesus teaches His disciples the proper, God-honoring, and worshipful way to pray. We must pray trusting in:

- God's Power and Sovereignty (Matt 6:9-10)
- God's Provision and Security (<u>Matt 6:11-13</u>)

We are to pray, recognizing Our Father's Position (Matt 6:9)

### Our Father who is in Heaven

Matthew 6:9 (LSB) <sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

### Hallowed be Your Name

Matthew 6:9 (LSB) <sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

#### The Scriptures Attest to His holiness

Genesis 1:1 (LSB) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<u>Leviticus 11:44</u> (LSB) <sup>44</sup> 'For I am Yahweh your God. Therefore, set yourselves apart as holy and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that move on the earth.

<u>Leviticus 22:32</u> (LSB) <sup>32</sup> "And you shall not profane My holy name, but I will be treated as holy among the sons of Israel; I am Yahweh who makes you holy,

Psalm 99:3 (LSB) <sup>3</sup> Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He.

<u>Psalm 99:9</u> (LSB) <sup>9</sup> Exalt Yahweh our God And worship at His holy mountain, For holy is Yahweh our God.

<u>Psalm 138:2</u> (LSB) <sup>2</sup> I will worship toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; <u>For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.</u>

### God keeps ALL His promises for the sake of His great Name

Ezekiel 36:17–28 (LSB) <sup>17</sup> "Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. <sup>18</sup> "Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. <sup>19</sup> "Also I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them. <sup>20</sup> "Then they came to the nations to which they came. And they profaned My holy name because it was said of them, 'These are the people of Yahweh; yet they have come out of His land.' <sup>21</sup> "But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

<sup>22</sup> "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says Lord Yahweh, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations, to which you have come. <sup>23</sup> "I will prove the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am Yahweh," declares Lord Yahweh, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

<sup>24</sup> "And I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be

careful to do My judgments. <sup>28</sup> "And you will inhabit the land that I gave to your fathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

Zechariah 12:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> "And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Romans 11:25–27 (LSB) <sup>25</sup> For I do not want you, brothers, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; <sup>26</sup> and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob." <sup>27</sup> "And this is My COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

### Jesus's Disciples

Matthew 6:9 (LSB) <sup>9</sup> "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

<u>Ephesians 6:10–11</u> (LSB) <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:18 (LSB) <sup>18</sup> praying at all times with all prayer and petition in the Spirit, and to this end, being on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

### The Disciples' Prayer

<u>2 Corinthians 1:20</u> (LSB) <sup>20</sup> For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes. Therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

John Calvin: Prayer is the chief exercise of faith!

You can trust God's Promises because of His holy Name!

# In Rom 1:16-17, God promises salvation to everyone who believes the Gospel.

Romans 1:16–17 (LSB) <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous will live by faith."

### In 2 Cor 5:17, God promises to make us new creations in Christ!

<u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u> (LSB) <sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

## In Rom 8:28, God promises that all things work together for good for those who love Him.

Romans 8:28 (LSB) <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

# In <u>Rom 8:29</u>, God promises that those whom He foreknew will endure and be glorified!

Romans 8:29–30 (LSB) <sup>29</sup> Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers; <sup>30</sup> and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.

## In <u>2 Cor 2:3-4</u>, God promises comfort as we endure trials and suffering.

<u>2 Corinthians 2:3–4</u> (LSB) <sup>3</sup> And this is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be *the joy* of you all. <sup>4</sup> For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have abundantly for you.

## In <u>James 1:2-4</u>, God promises to use our trials to make us more like Christ.

<u>James 1:2–4</u> (LSB) <sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith brings about perseverance. <sup>4</sup> And let perseverance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

# In <u>James 1:5-8</u>, God promises to give us wisdom to navigate our trials when we ask in faithful prayer.

James 1:5–8 (LSB) <sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith, doubting nothing, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### In **Eph 1:3**, God promises every spiritual blessing in Christ.

<u>Ephesians 1:3</u> (LSB) <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

## In **Eph 1:13-14**, God promises to seal believers with the Holy Spirit of promise.

### Therefore, we can be assured of our salvation in Christ.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (LSB) <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

# In <u>Eph 3:20</u>, God promises to do far more abundantly beyond all we ask in prayer - beyond all that we can understand.

Ephesians 3:20 (LSB) <sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or understand, according to the power that works within us,

## In <a href="Phil 1:6">Phil 1:6</a>, God promises to complete or perfect the work He started in us!

<u>Philippians 1:6</u> (LSB) <sup>6</sup> For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

### In Phil 4:6-7, God promises a peace that surpasses all comprehension.

### His peace will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

<u>Philippians 4:6–7</u> (LSB) <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## In <u>Matthew 6:33</u> and <u>Philippians 4:19</u>, God promises to fulfill all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

<u>Philippians 4:19</u> (LSB) <sup>19</sup> And my God will fulfill all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:33 (LSB) <sup>33</sup> "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

### **Discussion Questions:**

In <u>Matthew 6:9</u>, Jesus encourages us to pray by addressing God as "Our Father who is in heaven." How does this phrase impact your understanding of God's role in your life as both a sovereign and caring God?

How does recognizing God as both our Father and our Sovereign King help us trust Him more deeply? Are there specific areas of your life where you find it challenging to trust Him fully?

Pastor Brandon highlighted the importance of revering God's name. What does it mean to "hallow" God's name, and how can we practically honor His holiness in our everyday lives?

Considering passages like <u>Ezekiel 36:22-28</u>, how do we see God's commitment to His holy name throughout history? What can this teach us about His faithfulness to His promises?

Reflecting on the prayer in <u>Matthew 6</u>, how does the assurance that God keeps His promises for the sake of His name shape the way you approach prayer?

How can the knowledge that God is faithful to His promises help you endure challenges and opposition, like Paul's encouragement to the Ephesians in Ephesians 6:10-18?

Pastor Brandon mentioned how the disciples lived out their faith, often enduring hardship. How does their example inspire you to live out your faith today?

In <u>2 Corinthians 1:20</u>, Paul assures us that God's promises are always fulfilled in Christ. How can this truth strengthen your confidence as you pray and serve in your daily life?

We are to pray recognizing Our Father's Purview (Matt 6:10)

Matthew 6:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

### The Kingdom of Heaven - Matthew's Theme

John's Ministry

<u>Matthew 3:1–2</u> (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the <u>kingdom of heaven</u> is at hand."

The Devil's Offer - The Kingdom of this World

Matthew 4:8–10 (LSB) <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; <sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord Your God, and serve Him only."

Ephesians 2:2 (LSB) <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,

Genesis 3:15 (LSB) <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

### Jesus's Ministry

Matthew 4:17 (LSB) <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 5:3 (LSB) <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<u>Matthew 5:6</u> (LSB) <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<u>Matthew 5:10</u> (LSB) <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<u>Matthew 5:20</u> (LSB) <sup>20</sup> "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

<u>Galatians 3:24</u> (LSB) <sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor unto Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

Romans 3:23 (LSB) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

<u>Matthew 7:21</u> (LSB) <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, <u>but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven</u> *will enter*.

Matthew 6:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 28:19–20 (LSB) <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

#### The Disciples' Ministry

<u>Luke 10:1</u> (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

<u>Luke 10:8–11</u> (LSB) <sup>8</sup> "And whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

<sup>10</sup> "But in whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off against you; yet know this, that the kingdom of God is at hand.'

Ephesians 6:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

<u>Ephesians 6:11</u> (LSB) <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 (LSB) <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Ephesians 6:13 (LSB) <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Matthew 6:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

## Discussion Questions:

# Pastor Brandon mentioned that the kingdom of heaven is already present in "seed form," yet we await its fullness.

How do we see the kingdom of heaven at work today, even though it is not fully realized? What does it look like to live with the tension of the "already but not yet" kingdom?

In Matthew 4:8-10, Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of this world.

Why was this temptation significant, and what does it reveal about Satan's current rule over the world? How does Jesus' refusal of this offer model our own response to worldly temptations?

## Pastor Brandon said that Satan's rule is "derived" and limited by God's sovereignty.

How should this truth affect the way we engage in spiritual warfare and confront the darkness of this world?

## Pastor Brandon emphasized the importance of being strong in the Lord and putting on the full armor of God (Eph 6:10-13).

What does it mean to "stand firm" against the schemes of the devil, and how does prayer play a role in this spiritual battle?

### "Your kingdom come, Your will be done" is not just a prayer but a mindset.

How can we guard against praying this prayer mindlessly and instead live it out with purpose and anticipation for God's ultimate plan?

## We are to pray recognizing Our Father's Power (Matt 6:10)

Matthew 6:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> 'Your kingdom come. <u>Your will be done, On earth as it is</u> in heaven.

#### God's Will for this World

Revelation 21:4–5 (LSB) <sup>4</sup> and He will WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain. The first things passed away." <sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

#### His Decretive Will

<u>Ephesians 1:11</u> (LSB) <sup>11</sup> In Him, we also have been made an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him <u>who works all things</u> <u>according to the counsel of His will,</u>

Revelation 22:20 (LSB) <sup>20</sup> He who bears witness to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 (LSB) <sup>20</sup> "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

### His Preceptive or Revealed Will

Romans 5:12 (LSB) <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Galatians 6:2 (LSB) <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

<u>1 Corinthians 9:21</u> (LSB) <sup>21</sup> To those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God <u>but under the law of Christ</u>, so that I might win those who are without law.

### God's Perfect Will for Your Life

Colossians 1:1 (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

Romans 1:10 (LSB) <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers earnestly asking, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

### How do I Discern God's will for My Life!

<u>1 Peter 4:1–2</u> (LSB) <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose—because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin— <sup>2</sup> so as to no longer live the rest of the time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Romans 12:1(LSB) <sup>1</sup> Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, *and* pleasing to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.

<u>1 Thessalonians 4:3</u> (LSB) <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

## Conclusion:

Mark 10:45 (LSB) <sup>45</sup> "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Colossians 2:13–14 (LSB) <sup>13</sup> And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions. <sup>14</sup> Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

### **Discussion Questions**

### **Recognizing God's Will for the World:**

What does it mean to pray "Your kingdom come, Your will be done" in light of God's decretive will?

How does <u>Revelation 21:4–5</u> encourage you when praying for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven?

In what ways does the prayer for God's kingdom coming reflect an eschatological hope for believers?

## **Submitting to God's Will:**

How can we practically seek and submit to God's will in our daily lives?

Why is it important to understand the difference between God's decretive will (what He brings to pass) and His preceptive will (what He commands us to do)?

How do you personally discern God's will for your life when faced with major decisions or challenges?

### **Living in Light of God's Will:**

How does <u>Galatians 2:20</u> shape your understanding of living out God's will while waiting for His kingdom to come?

What does it look like to live according to God's revealed will, as outlined in passages like Romans 12:1–2 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3?

How does renewing your mind through God's Word help you better understand and live out His will?

### **God's Power in Prayer:**

How does praying for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven demonstrate trust in His power and sovereignty?

What role does acknowledging God's power to fulfill His promises (like reversing the curse and abolishing death) play in your prayer life?

## The Gospel

### God

## **Created and owns everything**

<u>Gen 1:1</u>—In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth

<u>Psalm 24:1</u>—The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.

## **Is Perfectly Holy**

<u>1 John 1:5</u>—This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Matt 5:48—Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### **Requires perfect obedience to His Law**

<u>James 2:10</u>—for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

#### Man

#### Has broken God's law

<u>Rom 3:10,23</u>—there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

### Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

<u>Rom. 6:23</u>—For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

## Cannot save himself by his good works

<u>Titus 3:5</u>—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

### **Christ**

#### Came to earth both as God and sinless man

Col 2:9—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

## Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

<u>Rom 5:8</u>—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

<u>2 Cor 5:21</u>—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## Rose from the grave and is alive today

<u>1 Cor 15:4</u>—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

### **Sinners**

## Must repent of all that dishonors God

<u>Isa 55:7</u>—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

<u>Luke 9:23</u>—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take us his cross daily and follow Me.

#### Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

<u>Rom 10:9</u>—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

### Will you repent and believe in Christ?

<u>Acts 17:30</u>—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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## **Additional Quotes**

Other duties become pressing and absorbing and crowd out prayer. 'Choked to death' would be the coroner's verdict in many cases of dead praying if an inquest could be secured on this dire, spiritual calamity. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)** 

Prayer without faith! What sort of prayer is it? It is the prayer of a man who does not believe in God. ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

The goal of prayer is the ear of God. ~ Charles Spurgeon

The armour is for the battle of prayer. The armour is not to fight in, but to shield us while we pray. Prayer is the battle. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)** 

Prayer at its best is the expression of the total life, for all things else being equal, our prayers are only as powerful as our lives. ~ **A. W. Tozer** 

Remember that prayer is your best means of study. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Prayer is the sweat of the soul. ~ Martin Luther (Founder of the German Reformation)

Prayer is the thermometer of Divine Grace. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Prayer is a living thing—you cannot find a living prayer in a dead heart. Why seek you the living among the dead, or search the sepulcher to find the signs and tokens of life? No, Sir, if you have not been made alive by the Grace of God, you cannot pray! ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

Prayer is the breath of faith. Prayer meetings are the lungs of the church. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Prayer is a serious thing. We may be taken at our words. ~ **Dwight Lyman Moody (Evangelist)** 

Prayer will make you leave off sinning, or sinning will make you leave off praying. ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

When your heart is like a boiling geyser, let it steam aloft in pillars of prayer. ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

Do not reckon you have prayed until you have pleaded, for pleading is the very marrow of prayer. ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

Our lives must be as holy as our prayers. ~ Andrew Murray

God can no more divest himself of his attribute of hearing prayer than of being. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)** 

Prayer is the pulse of life. ~ **Andrew Murray** 

May we not draw some comfort from the thought that our prayers never are intrusions? ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

In reality, the denial of prayer is a denial of God himself. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)** 

Everything we do in the Christian life is easier than prayer. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer** 

Prayer at its best is the expression of the total life. ~ A. W. Tozer

Our prayers are only as powerful as our lives. In the long pull we pray only as well as we live. ~ **A. W. Tozer** 

I know of no better thermometer to your spiritual temperature than this, the measure of the intensity of your prayer. ~ **Charles Spurgeon** 

The door is closed to prayer unless it is opened with the key of trust. ~ **John Calvin (French Reformer)** 

O prayer! Prayer! It brings and keeps God and man together. It raises man up to God and brings God down to man. If you would keep your walk up with God, pray, pray without ceasing. ~ **George Whitefield (Methodist Evangelist)** 

To give prayer the secondary place is to make God secondary in life's affairs. ~ **Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)** 

Lifeless prayer is no more prayer than the picture of a man is a man. ~ **Thomas**Watson

What can be more excellent than prayer; what is more profitable to our life; what sweeter to our souls; what more sublime, in the course of our whole life, than the practice of prayer! ~ **Saint Augustine of Hippo** 

God does nothing but in answer to prayer. ~ John Wesley

Never make the blunder of trying to forecast the way God is going to answer your prayer. ~ **Oswald Chambers (Lecturer and Missionary)** 

We are obliged to pray if we are citizens of God's Kingdom.... The gospel cannot live, fight, or conquer without prayer—prayer unceasing, instant, and ardent. ~ Edward McKendree Bounds (American Methodist Episcopal Minister)

## **Next Time:**

We must pray trusting in God's Provision and Security (Matt 6:11-13)

We are to pray requesting Our Father's Provision (Matt 6:11)

We are to pray requesting Our Father's Pardon (Matt 6:12)

We are to pray requesting Our Father's Protection (Matt 6:13)