

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church September 22, 2019

Prayer: Jesus' teaching on how to pray: The Lord's Prayer

- Matthew 6:9 - 13 versus Luke 11:1 – 4.

Matthew	Luke
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.	Father, hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	Your kingdom come.
Give us this day our daily bread	Give us each day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts (<i>opheilēma</i>) as we have also forgiven our debtors (<i>opheiletēs</i>).	and forgive us our sins (<i>hamartia</i>), for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted (<i>opheilō</i>) to us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	And lead us not into temptation.

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- “For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen”
 - This was an addition to the original text as the oldest most reliable manuscripts do not contain these words.
 - Most modern translations omit them.
 - There is nothing theologically incorrect about the wording and it is not inappropriate to add these words in public or private prayer.

Prayer: Jesus' teaching on how to pray: The Lord's Prayer

- Should we ask for forgiveness of debts, trespasses or sins?
- Those in Presbyterian or Reformed traditions are more likely to say “debts.”
- Those who come from Anglican/Episcopal, Methodist, or Roman Catholic traditions are more likely to say “trespasses.”
- Those whose churches were influenced by ecumenical liturgical movements of the late twentieth century are more likely to say “sins.”

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- In the New Testament and the Septuagint the Greek words *opheilēma* (debts) and *opheiletēs* (debtors) usually mean owing a financial or moral debt.
- But for some reason William Tyndale (1526) preferred “trespasses” even though both the Wycliffe Bibles (1382 – 1395) and early Church Fathers like Augustine spoke of debts.
- By 1611 when the King James Bible was published debt/debtor was used and has carried through in the NASB, NIV and ESV and The New Jerusalem Bible (NJB).

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- Probably the reason trespasses is used in Matthew 6:12 is 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. (Matthew 6:14 -15) The Greek word *paraptoma* is translated as trespasses and is used 23 times in the NT. It means a lapse or deviation i.e. (unintentional) error or (willful) transgression:--fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

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- Another example of *paraptoma* is Ephesians 2:1)
- And you were dead in the trespasses (*paraptoma*) and sins (*hamartia*) 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. (Ephesians 2:1 – 3 ESV)

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- Translations of *paraptoma*

Translation/Verse	Matthew 6:14 - 15	Ephesians 2:1
King James	Trespases	Trespases
ESV	Trespases	Trespases
New American Standard	Transgressions	Trespases
NIV	Sins	Transgressions
New Jerusalem Bible	Failings	Crimes

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- Debtors' prisons are an archaic thing of the unenlightened past, and we don't have kings throwing us into them (Matthew 18:23–35). We have merciful bankruptcy laws that protect us in ways inconceivable to past generations. So "debt" might not carry for us the sense of threat it did for them.
- On the other hand in our modern context a trespasser occupies a realm or exercises a right that rightfully belongs to someone else. A trespasser violates another person.

Prayer: The Lord's Prayer – Jon Bloom, Forgive – Us – Our - What?

In the garden of Eden (and what we have all done since) we have not merely borrowed from God an unpayable debt for which we appeal for bankruptcy protection. We have seized a realm and exercised a right that belongs to him. We have violated God. We have committed a treasonous trespass, and we owe the debt of treason: death (Romans 6:23). And what Jesus has done, for those of us who trust him, is pay that terrible debt completely. And what he's requiring of us is to forgive others who have occupied a realm and exercised a right that belongs to us, who have violated us — since we have been forgiven a far worse violation.

Prayer: Jesus' teaching on how to pray: The Lord's Prayer

- In Luke's version of the prayer, Jesus says, "and forgive us our *sins*, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is *indebted* to us" (Luke 11:4).
- In this case, the Greek word used for "sins" is *hamartia*, which in general means "sins" or "guilt." But since it's paired with *opheilonti* ("indebted to us") it's still clear that Jesus had the sense of debt in mind when referring to sin in the prayer he taught his disciples. So, just saying "forgive us our sins" (as the modern ecumenical movement tends to do) is not inaccurate; it just loses the nuance Jesus apparently intended

Prayer: Why Does God Want Us to Pray?

- God does not need our prayers to gain information or find out what we need.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. (Psalm 139:1 – 4)

...your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (Matthew 6:8)

Prayer: Why Does God Want Us to Pray?

- Prayer expresses our trust in God and increases our trust in him.
 - Praying in humble dependence on God shows that we are convinced of God's wisdom, love, goodness, power and all his other attributes.
 - When we truly pray our whole character relates to God's whole character so that everything we think or feel about God is expressed.
 - God delights in this and it is a significant part of our relationship with him.

Prayer: Why Does God Want Us to Pray?

- God expects us to look to him as our provider.

...ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit (good things Matthew 7:11)** to those who ask him!“ (Luke 11:9 – 13)

Prayer: Why Does God Want Us to Pray?

- We must pray with faith.

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (Matthew 21:22)

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (James 1:6 – 7)

Prayer: Why Does God Want Us to Pray?

- There are two other reasons God wants us to pray.
 - God wants us to love him because he loves his children. Prayer brings us into deeper fellowship with God.
 - God allows his children to be involved in eternally important things and the work of the kingdom is advanced.