

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Chron. 29:10-30

EXTRA READING: Apostle's Creed & Canons, V, 4

SINGING: 395:1-4 – 71:1-5 – 208:1-4 – 421:3, 4, 6

THE CONCLUSION OF PRAYER IS TO CONTAIN

I. Doxology II. Confession

I. The Doxology of prayer

A. Prayer is one of the most important things to do daily!

1. Assume you pray daily but are our prayers *worship of God*?

2. Assume you say 'Amen' but are they an expression of faith?

B. God's Church has every reason – at all times – to rejoice in God and to express doxology to Him *even when we don't feel like it!*

1. Question: *Who of us has glorified God in praise/thanksgiving today?*

2. Bible prayers are full of doxology: *Bless the Lord, oh my soul!*

a. many words in OT and NT describe doxology

b. doxology is to be *sweetest part of our life – prayers!*

• Revelation 5:13-14, 7:12

3. Lord's prayer begins with what it ends: *Hallowed Name!*

II. Concludes with a confession of faith

A. Each prayer must be offered in faith: Hebrews 6:6; James 1:6

1. do you believe as you pray: *believe that God exist – means what He says – that He is what He reveals Himself to be – hears you!*

a. all this we ask ***because thine is Kingdom/power/glory***

b. in prayer we don't overcome God's unwillingness but lay *hold of His willingness* to give us all good!

B. Do we confess that He *is the Kingdom: not 'future' but 'present'*

1. God's Son is the Kingdom and His people are the Kingdom

a. in Christ is the Kingdom of God from all eternity

b. all who are drawn and taught of the Father

b. comforting truth is *if God is showing your sin – humbling heart – drawing - overcoming unwillingness – awakening hunger/thirst*

- in heart for His blood, merits, righteousness*
- that is *proof you are part of His Kingdom – known by name w/ God - fruit of being in His Kingdom are marks of grace!*
- c. Thine is the Kingdom ... *all around see needs – brokenness*
- despite that – in contrast to that *we see glimmerings of God's work as He is realizing His Kingdom in His people - isn't that beautiful – glorious – refreshing?*
- d. for thou are the King/Kingdom ... *able and willing!?*
- for Thou ... *art merciful and gracious – ready to pardon!*
 - for Thou ... *art sovereign and free in thy Good pleasure*
 - for Thou ... *are sin pardoning God –no pleasure in my death*
- C. Do we confess in our prayer that *He has all power in heaven/earth?*
1. Cat explains *He is able to give ...* but may expand that w/ truth that *with Him all is 'secure' – what we entrust to Him, He has power to keep – protect – keep secure*
 - a. nothing is harder to keep than your *thoughts – feelings – soul*
 - b. but what is given into His hands – committed to His throne – what is in His hands ... *safest!*
- D. Do we confess that *His glory is the ultimate of all glory!*
1. God's glory His brightness – God Himself in all His beauty holiness
 - a. God does all to glorify Himself: Is. 48:11, Rom. 11:36
 - b. all God's works does glorify Him: *both salvation and damnation*
 2. Purpose of saving a sinner is to *restore him/her original purpose*
 - a. none is more honored than the person that is given grace to glorify God in life and death – in thought and word!
 - He called us to *show forth His glories/virtues*
 - if you detect within you this *all consuming desire – drive – longing to glorify Him, then you have spark of salvation*
- E. Do we confess in 'Amen' what 'that little word' really means?
1. Amen is not 'the end' – to inform God/others prayer is ended
 2. Amen is 'original Hebrew' ... *to entrust – trust – make certain*
 - a. amazing confession as Cat expounds: *expression of our confidence that God will hear our petition*
 - may feel quite hopeless – discouraged – disgusted w/ prayer:
 - yet 'despite me, it shall truly and certainly be!
 - more certain that I desire: *even my strongest desire is weak*
 - b. how can they write such strong language?
 - b/c salvation is *not dependent upon me – His work from A/Z*
 - b/c in prayer we *entrust – leave it in hand of Christ – my Rest – My Redeemer: Come unto Me ... give you rest!*
 3. Amen is 'confession' not merely that *He heard our prayers*
 - a. D: *verhoort ...* more than 'hear' – like 'take it over to answer'
 - Amen is ... *even though I don't see/have answer – might need to wait long – might get a different answer than I desire, I entrust my petitions into Thy hand*
 - I rest my plea expectantly at thy Father heart and am sure (by

faith in Thy Word and not b/c I feel) that Thou wilt supply all my needs so Thy Name be hallowed – Thy Kingdom come – Thy will be done!

b. see Eph. 3:20-21; Jude 24-25

◆ such confidence is never *based on “cov. of works” but all based on God’s good pleasure revealed and confirmed in His covenant of Grace*

Close:

A. M. Henry wrote *The Lord’s presence is infinite – His brightness in supportable – His majesty awesome – His dominion boundless and His sovereignty incontestable!*

a. There is nothing little about God – nothing limitless with God!

b. only when we see what he saw in God, will we *know the only comfort in life and death*

B. But the end of all this great work of God and His kingdom is *Zeph. 3:17*

1. Often we focus too much on our rest ... *but ultimately it is God’s rest that is pre-eminent: as He rested on seventh day so He will rest – sing – rejoice as NONE OTHER in salvation of His people*

Closing Prayer

- How incomparable glorious thou art, oh, Almighty King of glory!
 - we not only thank Thee for this *prayer* but for *thee praying it for each of thy Children day/night!*
 - truly, in that sense this prayer is the *Lord’s Prayer – thy prayer!*
 - thank thee for glorify thyself in this *fallen world in and thr work of redemption – gathering sinners – leading them out of sin to holiness*
 - thank thee for greatness of Thy sacrifice – atoning blood to make it possible to *be united with such wretched sinners as we are!*
- Teach us again and again to pray in faith – conclude our petition w/
trusting Thee to hear us and to answers far exceeding we ask or hope!
 - we confess our thoughts of thee are too small – too human – too earthly
 - but teach us all to know Thee more and more
- Purify and sanctify our prayers: *may Thy glory our ultimate purpose of every petition – intercession – thanksgiving!*
 - grant us faith to anchor all our petition in the revelation of thy glory
- That in all things we may join the poet of Ps. 72
 - Blessed be Thou, LORD God, God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things,*
 - Blessed be thy glorious Name for ever and let the whole earth be filled with Thy glory, Amen and Amen*