

# WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

## SHORTER CATECHISM,

### LESSON # 50 (Q4LES11) – THE LORD’S PRAYER, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> PETITIONS

1. **Prayer**
2. **Bible reading: John 17 1 - 26**
3. **Review:** In our last lesson, we began our discussion of the Lord’s prayer. We learned that the preface to the Lord’s prayer, which is (Our Father which art in heaven) teaches us that in our prayers, we should draw near to God, in the same manner, and with the same faith, that a child has in his parents. When talking to God we should approach him with reverence due the supreme and only God, creator of the universe, and with the confidence that, as members of His elect, he will take care of us, minister to our needs, and ultimately accept us into his holy kingdom. (which art in heaven) is a reminder of the great distance between the holy God, and sinful man. We learned that we should pray with and for others. The first petition (Hallowed be thy name), reminds us of God’s glory, and that we are to glorify him, with all our thoughts, words, and actions, in every way that he has made himself known.
4. **Introduction:** The Lord’s prayer is God’s special rule of direction for prayer. The Lord’s prayer is covered in SC questions 100 and 107. Today we will continue our study of the Lord’s prayer, discussing the second and third petitions, which are covered in SC q102 and 103.
5. **Questions & Answers:**

**Question 102: What do we pray for in the second petition?**

**Answer:** In the second petition, (which is, *“thy kingdom come”*) we pray that Satan’s kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into in, and kept in it, and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

**Question 103 What do we pray for in the third petition?**

**Answer:** In the third petition, (which is, *thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*), we pray That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

## 6. The SC, LC and WCF

- a. The SC and the LC both devote one question each to the second and third petitions. SC q 102 and LC q191 deal with the second petition, and SC q 103 and LC q 192 deal with the third petition. The LC devotes significantly more material to each petition. The WCF, as noted in a previous lesson, does not directly address the Lord's Prayer.

## 7. Second Petition, "Thy kingdom come" (SC q102)

- a. When we refer to the "kingdom of God", what kingdom are we talking about?

Two kingdoms. TV identifies these as (Q102q1):

- The kingdom of God's grace here on earth. (SC q102: *"the kingdom of grace may be advanced,"*) TV uses as his scripture proof (**Luke 17: 20 – 21** <sup>(20)</sup>*And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: <sup>(21)</sup>Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you,"*

The SC uses verses from Revelation (**Rev 12: 10 – 11** <sup>(10)</sup>*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast before our God day and night. <sup>(11)</sup>And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

- The kingdom of God's glory in the other world. (SC q102: *"the kingdom of glory may be hastened."*) TV uses as his scripture proof (**1 Cor 6:9** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God: Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,"* He indicates here, that those who, on this earth, have not been blessed with God's kingdom of grace, will not inherit God's kingdom of Glory.

The SC again uses the book of Revelation. (**Rev 22:20** *"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord*

**Jesus.** Here again, He indicates that the things of which He has been speaking are here on earth, and before His coming in His kingdom of glory.

b. By acknowledging God's kingdom of grace, and praying for it to come, we acknowledge that, at present, another state exists.

1. What is this other kingdom? Both the SC (q102) and LC (q191) refer to this as Satan's kingdom here on earth. The LC says, "*acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan,*"

2. What is man's (including ourselves) condition in Satan's kingdom?

3. We are under the dominion of sin and Satan. **(Eph 2: 2- 3 <sup>(2)</sup>*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: <sup>(3)</sup>Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*)**

3. By praying for God's kingdom to come, we are therefore praying that Satan's kingdom will be destroyed.

4. Are God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom compatible?

- Both co-exist here on earth. The elect and the damned are side by side.
- But they are direct opposites, God's kingdom is simply not compatible with Satan's. You can't be both.
- Left to ourselves, we always choose Satan's way.
- Our only way into God's kingdom is by grace, which we pray to be advanced.
- By the coming of God's kingdom's, Satan's will be destroyed. By the coming of his kingdom of grace, sin and Satan's hold over us is destroyed in us. By the coming of God's kingdom of glory, Satan's kingdom is destroyed, and he is cast into everlasting darkness, **(Rev 12: 10 – 11 <sup>(3)</sup>*And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*<sup>(1)</sup> *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony: and they loved not their lives unto the death.*)**

c. God's kingdom of grace.

1. The SC simply states that we pray *“that the kingdom of grace may be advanced,”*. Advanced is a key word here, indicating progress over time, something continually happening to us.
2. The LC is much more specific in what is to be done in this world by the advancement of God’s kingdom of grace. In q 191, it says, *“the gospel propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in: the church furnished with all gospel-officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate: that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here,”* Let’s look at what is covered here:
  - *“The gospel propagated throughout the world.”* – certainly advancing God’s kingdom of grace.
  - *“The Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in”* – ourselves and others brought into God’s kingdom of grace.
  - *“the church furnished with all gospel-officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate”*
  - *“that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted”* – again, ourselves and others brought into God’s kingdom of grace.
  - *“that Christ would rule in our hearts here”* - and kept in God’s kingdom of grace.

d. God’s kingdom of glory.

1. The SC says, *‘and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.*
2. The LC, q191 simply says, *“and hasten the time of the second coming, and our reigning with him forever, and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.”*
3. Both the LC and SC note that this petition includes the request that the coming of God’s kingdom of Glory may be hastened.
4. It will appear and be manifested unto the whole world at the second coming and appearance of the Lord Jesus to judgement. ***(Rev 22:20 “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”***

**8. Third petition, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (SC q103)**

- a. What does “The will of God” include? What do we mean by God’s will?

TV identifies two kinds of God’s will

- The will of God’s precept (read commandment or direction meant as a rule of action), or that which he is pleased to require of us. Remember back in SC q39 (What is the duty which God requires of man?), God requires of us obedience to his revealed will. (**Matt 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”**)
- The will of God’s providence, or that which he is pleased to do with us, and unto us. God requires our acceptance of the things he does to us, even though we may not understand or like what is happening to us. (**1 Peter 3:17 “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing, than for evil-doing.”**)

- b. The LC begins with a serious reminder about our sinful nature, acknowledging that: *“by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness, and perverseness of heart”*. By noting that we pray that God’s will be done, we are acknowledging that God’s way is not our normal way of doing things. (**Rom 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”**)

Included in this introduction are both God’s precept will (*“prone to rebel against his word”*), and His providence will (*“to repine and murmur against his providence”*) of God.

- c. The SC and the LC both note that we are to ask for God’s grace to make us willing and able to know, obey (LC read do), and submit to God’s will in all things.
- What is meant by “know” God’s will? That we and others, by His Word and Spirit, know and understand God’s revealed will.
  - What is meant by “obey” God’s will? That we endeavor to do the duties specified in his will. (God’s precept will)
  - What is meant by “submit” to God’s will? Thankfully accept His merciful providences, and patiently submit to afflictive providence’s. (God’s providence will.)
- d. The LC q192 adds: *“with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy,”*

- e. Both the LC and SC note that the angels in heaven are obedient to God's will. **(Psalm 103:20 "*Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.*")** This is a further example of God's awesome power.

## 9. Summary

- a. The second petition of the Lord's prayer acknowledges the Kingdom of God, in two parts, the Kingdom of Grace here on earth, and the Kingdom of Glory to come. It also notes the kingdom of Satan here on earth, into which we are born, and out of which we come only by the grace of God.
- b. The third petition of the Lord's prayer asks that God, by his grace, will make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things. It notes that the angels in heaven are submissive to God's will.