

## REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 19 MAY 2013: EVENING SERVICE

**Sing before:** Scripture Versification 3-1: 3

*Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Scripture Versification 1-1:1

**Prayer:**

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation for the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises.**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

**Amen**

Psalm 103:7

**Scripture reading:** Mark 9.

**Scripture text:** Mark 9:24 and Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 9.

**Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"**

(Mark 9:24)

Any true parent will understand the grief and suffering that this father felt for the misery of his child. Therefore every parent who finds himself in this situation will also put all his trust in God the Father.

We read in this passage of human emotion – and this is also reality – that in when we are in the greatest need, we come to know our frailty and our perdition.

- Our cry for help to God our Father is then rooted so much deeper in our faith.
- Everybody who has a vibrant relationship with God will experience each day of his life that God who is our Creator also is our Father.

His Fatherhood is demonstrated daily in the way He cares for us.

- His providence comprises not only the physical
- It encompasses in equal measure the spiritual blessings we receive.

This man could come to the Lord Jesus to pray for God's grace.

- He knew that God our Father would never forsake us in our need.
- He believed firmly that the Lord would turn away all evil from him – and if this was not His will, that he would control the evil so that whatever occurred would be to his advantage.

It is a fact that doubt and unbelief are our greatest enemies – especially when we are in trouble.

- The power of unbelief will tell you whenever you are in trouble that the Lord cannot help you.
- Or it will make you believe that you are not sufficiently important to the Lord for Him to care.
- Or it will try to convince you that you are simply not good enough to succeed in life.

That is why prayer is so important in our religious life.

- We pray because we trust the Lord to be honest in the promises He made.
- And also because we trust in His almight and His love – for there is nothing that lies beyond His power.

We also pray because we have learnt of the love of God the Father in the merit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We know that the Lord Jesus Christ died to save us from our inability to rule life.
- We also know that the death of the Lord Jesus was to make us worthy of the Kingdom of God.

So far it is easy to say these things as we only repeat what the Bible tells us. The truth is that God is our Creator – that is from where we come.

- With the Fall into sin we turned our backs onto Him and rejected His fatherhood over us.
- We knowingly decided to accept the devil's offer.
- That is why the Lord Jesus tells us plainly that the devil is our father!

**"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

(John 8:44)

But God's love for us is so great that He allowed His only Son, who was born through Him, to die so that our relationship as His children could be reinstated.

- That is how great the love of God the Father is.
- He becomes Man in His second Person and as man He lays down His life only to resume it on the third day.
  - In other words, He comes to die a death of punishment for our sake and on the third day He arises from the dead as He predicted He would.
  - The punishment He bore and His resurrection was for our sake.

This time He takes with Him all those whom He made His children – with Him out of death into life – the eternal life.

*The Lord Jesus does this – but He does so in obedience to God the Father. With this act God the Father makes us His children – children reconciled through the blood of His Son.*

We know from the Bible (which is God's particular revelation) that, before He created anything, God the Father had already taken a particular decision about the people He was to create and let live.

- In His providence He already then decided which of us He wanted to have in His kingdom in the hereafter and which not.
- He also decided then exactly what He would do in order to reconcile them with Him and how He would punish their sins.

This is how the Lord reveals it to us:

**4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,**

**5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,**

**6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.**

**7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace**

(Ephesians 1:4-7)

Where does this put us?

- It puts us in the love of God the Father.
- It puts us within His providing love.

All we need to do is to believe in and to found our prayer on this redemption that our heavenly Father provided for us.

- In His providence He made it possible for us to have access to His throne through His Son.
- All He asks of us is to believe in Him with childlike faith and to worship Him.
- In addition this He asks us to accept His Son as our one and only Saviour and to confess Him as such.

Let us read the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 9, together.

**Q. 26.**

**What believest thou when thou sayest, "I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"?**

**A.**

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (who of nothing made heaven and earth, with all that is in them; (a) who likewise upholds and governs the same by his eternal counsel and providence) (b) is for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father; (c) on whom I rely so entirely, that I have no doubt,

but he will provide me with all things necessary for soul and body (d) and further, that he will make whatever evils he sends upon me, in this valley of tears turn out to my advantage; (e) for he is able to do it, being Almighty God, (f) and willing, being a faithful Father. (g)

(a)

Genesis 1 and 2.

Exod.20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Job 38 and 39.

Ps.33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Acts 4:24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Isa.45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

(b)

Matt.10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Heb.1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Ps.104:27 These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

Ps.104:28 That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.

Ps.104:29 Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Ps.104:30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

Ps.115:3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Matt.10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Eph.1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

(c)

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Rom.8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Gal.4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Gal.4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Gal.4:7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Eph.1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

(d)

Ps.55:23 But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

Matt.6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matt.6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Luke 12:22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

(e)

Rom.8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(f)

Rom.10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Luke 12:22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

Rom.8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Isa.46:4 And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Rom.10:12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

(g)

Matt.6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matt.6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matt.6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matt.6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matt.6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matt.6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matt.6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matt.6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matt.6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt.6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Matt.7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Matt.7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

Matt.7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.  
Closing Psalm: 4:3.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**Amen**

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