

## REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM: SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2014: EVENING SERVICE

**Sing before:** Scripture Versification 2-3:1 [Revelation 11: 15-19]

*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**

Psalm of praise: Psalm 149:1

**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**

Scripture Versification 18-3:4, 7 [Revelation 19 : 1-9]

Scripture reading: Matthew 6:5 – 13 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Scripture text: 1 Corinthians 15:28; Catechism Sunday 48

**Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)**

There is not one of us who do not fully realise how powerful the satan and his forces are.

Therefore we must pray more and more for the Kingdom of God to be installed on earth.

But together with the realisation that the Lord's Kingdom must also be installed into our lives, there are matters hampering us. Let us, during this sermon, pay attention to the following aspects relevant to the arrival of the Kingdom of the Lord:

- 1. Satan is a throne-thief**
- 2. The Lord comforts us.**
- 3. Where do I fit in?**

### **1. Satan is a throne-thief.**

The satan is a throne-thief. His history bears witness to this fact.

- Firstly, in heaven, he tried stealing God's throne.
- After that, in Paradise, he tried stealing mankind from God.
- Consider the revelation of the Old Testament: often he tempted the children of God to sin, causing God to become angry with them and punishing them with the death of thousands.

At present, because his time is running out, the devil is working with greater speed amongst the people!

- He will continue like this until the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.

- Every believer knows that God revealed that His Kingdom would not arrive without resistance. It comes with great battle against the satan and his forces.

It is a fact that there are two kingdoms.

- There is the true Kingdom of God as well as a false kingdom: the empire of the devil.
- Last named is only an imitation having no glory. This is why the devil and his empire tries to counteract the Kingdom of God on all levels.

It is not easy for the devil to install all his false images and get them operational.

- As an example he can never come about with the truth and in all honesty introduce himself as God.
- Therefore he makes use of the lie and continually tries destroying the church and God's Kingdom by revolution and uprising.
- We read that even the angels in heaven are in constant conflict with the angels of satan.

## 2. The Lord comforts us.

The Lord is very rich in comfort: God reveals to you that the Lord Jesus Christ has already defeated the power of satan and his angels.

- He died in His battle against this empire.
- Together with His body He arose from death and became alive again.
- This reveals how limited the power of the devil is – he is so weak against the Lord that he could not prevent Jesus becoming live and rising from death.

*This, however, does not mean that our battle against the devil is complete. The Lord cast the devil to earth and here he still has the freedom of movement to destroy everything he possibly can.*

Therefore the Lord Jesus teaches that we must pray for His Kingdom to come.

- Every person – the complete battling church – must continually pray that the Kingdom of God must come.
- The reason for this is obvious: as long as we are on this earth we will have to fight against the devil.
- Therefore we must pray that the Kingdom of God should come in its perfection resulting in our battle against the devil becoming the victory of God.

Let us consider the meaning of the word *kingdom*:

- The Kingdom of God is not only a place, it is also the works of God.
- The Kingdom of God is the everlasting government of God. Together with that it is also the government of God over all matters known to us at present, like heaven and earth.
- Even more that that it also is the government of God over and disposal of the new heaven and the new earth where He will be everything in everybody.

Consider the contents of Psalm 99:1, 2 where it is written that the Lord is King, dwelling between the cherubim, causing the peoples to tremble and the earth to shudder!

**The Lord reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! 2 The Lord is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples.  
(Psalm 99:1-2)**

In the hereafter the church will no longer fight against the devil.

- The church, through God, will be the victor over the devil. He will remove and seal up the devil, all his powers and followers.
- Therefore the church, because this prayer will be fulfilled, will be named the triumphant church.

But that is not all that can be said about the Kingdom of God.

- The government of God also includes Satan and his devils.
- The devil, unless the Lord grants him permission, is unable to do anything anywhere.

The Lord, through His mercy, rules differently over us than over the devils:

- All believers know that, by our own powers, we will never be able to enter this Kingdom of God.
- We are so saturated by sin that we, in our unholiness, can contribute very little to effect the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Therefore we constantly have to pray the passage of the *Our Father* where we pray for the arrival of the Kingdom of God.

- With this prayer we implore the Lord that He should rule me by His Word and Spirit so that the longer I live, the more subservient I would become to Him.
- It is because we realise our misery and weakness that, with this prayer, we approach the Lord on our knees.

With this we pray for power and obedience:

- Power to be the warriors of God, the ability to tackle all that is wrong and to be victorious over it.
- Obedience in listening when the Lord reveals to us that we are doing the wrong things.

### 3. Where do I fit in?

When we read the explanation of this passage in the Catechism we clearly see the consolation about this matter:

- We confess that we will not someday become citizens of the Kingdom of God, we are citizens already.
- We are bad subjects who must improve.
- Therefore we, as part of the coming of His Kingdom, already pray that the Lord should change us so that we may become better worshippers of His majesty.

Let us consider our responsibility in this matter.

- The Bible teaches that the exits of life are from the heart – in other words our point of departure in life and relationship with God comes from our interior.
- In practice: We cannot secretly belong to the Lord. Our whole life must reflect it.

The Kingdom of God also comes through those confessing Him. In other words through our obedience to Him.

- Should we look about today one matter emanates as a solid fact: People in general do not have much time for God, let alone obeying Him.
- Exactly because there is such a lack of respect for the Lord, we must continually pray this prayer.

The purpose is not only that this prayer should bring about an exterior change of heart to the people.

- A change of heart must also take place inside the church.
- The church is the army of the Lord Jesus Christ, but this fighting army must arrive at a point where it utilises, to the glory of God, its full armoury against the satan.

*This prayer is thus also indicative of the eagerness of the church, living amongst the dangers and realising that the devil wants to eradicate it, now approaching the Almighty for help and protection.*

Beloved, come let us, because we long for the day of the Lord's Second Coming, pray this prayer with great sincerity.

- That day our battle will be complete.
- That day we will enter the Kingdom of God – the Kingdom of perfection where God is everything in everybody.

Let us look at what our confession in the Heidelberg Catechism, Sunday 48, teaches about this:

### **Q. 123.**

#### **Which is the second petition?**

#### **Answer:**

"Thy kingdom come"; that is, rule us so by thy word and Spirit, that we may submit ourselves more and more to thee; (a)

preserve and increase thy church; (b)

destroy the works of the devil, and all violence which would exalt itself against thee; and also all wicked counsels devised against thy holy word; (c)

till the full perfection of thy kingdom take place, (d)  
wherein thou shalt be all in all. (e)

(a)

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

Ps.119:5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!

Ps.143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

(b)

Ps.51:18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Ps.122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Ps.122:7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

Ps.122:8 For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Ps.122:9 Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.

(c)

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Rom.16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

(d)

Rev.22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Rev.22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Rom.8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

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.

(e)

1 Cor.15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 142:1, 4

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**Amen**

Dr MJ Du Plessis  
Helping Reverend  
Reformed Church Clanwilliam  
9 March 2014  
Scripture Modern King James Version