

REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE: SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2011 EVENING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 2:3

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

Psalm of praise: Psalm 89:1,3

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of 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 72:2,6

Scripture reading: Luke 12

Scripture text: Luke 12:31,32. Catechism Sunday 48

Yet seek ye his kingdom, and these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

(Luke 12:31,23)

The Lord Jesus gives a very clear command: **Seek ye his Kingdom!**

The true believer has no choice, he must seek it – and God wants to grant and let come His Kingdom and everything connected thereto!

This is difficult because who knows what exactly the Kingdom of God is?

- The Kingdom of God is in fact the new heaven and the new earth together with everybody and everything thereon and therein.
- It is the place of residence of God and it also is the place from where God rules.
- But it also includes all the subjects (people and angels) who will inhabit the new heaven and the new earth. We, because we will be the population of the new earth, are thus part of the Kingdom of God.

It is the place of residence and rule of the Almighty God, but He calls on us – sinners! – to seek it.

- Since the beginning God has promised the Kingdom.
- Through the ages He revealed many things thereabout.
- He, at this moment, is busy with the final preparations thereof.

The Lord Jesus not only calls on us to seek the Kingdom of God.

- He also tells us how to do it: By praying.
- We have to specifically pray: **Let Your Kingdom come!**

This prayer encompasses three matters:

1. **Firstly we pray this prayer in faith.**
2. **Furthermore this prayer is also very specifically directed against the devil.**
3. **In the third place is this prayer directed to the glory of God.**

1. **Firstly we pray this prayer in faith.**

Should you want to pray about the Kingdom, you must have the unconditional faith of a child.

- It is only by faith that we are able to see and know the Kingdom of God.
- It is also only by the faith that we will desire to be in the Kingdom of God and to enjoy all the tender mercies (benefits) thereof.
- Also it is only by the faith that we want, and will bow to our King in the Kingdom and worship Him.

Somebody who does not believe can have no understanding about the Kingdom of God.

- Faith and regeneration goes hand in hand.
- Only the reborn can understand the revelation of the Lord.
- Also only a reborn can see him/herself as part of the Kingdom of God.

It is only faith that can let us understand that we, as believers, would, only through the grace and reconciliation of the Mediator, enter the Kingdom.

Shortly after the Fall the Lord gave Eve the promise of salvation. From her seed Somebody would be born who would crush the head of the snake. To just even accept the events of that day requires an immense faith:

- You must be able to believe that those two people fell into sin.
- You must be able to believe that through these two the complete mankind fell, following the satan, into the abyss.
- And you must be able to believe the promise made by the Lord about the salvation stemming from the woman's seed.

Then the top-requirement for your faith:

- You must be able to believe that this promise came true in the Lord Jesus.
- You also have to believe that He is erecting the Kingdom Of God where those who He saves will live forever.

2. Furthermore this prayer is also very specifically directed against the devil.

The Kingdom of God must have subjects. There is no kingdom without subjects.

- The church is the subjects who will be in the perfect Kingdom of God – because the church is the chosen/saved.
- But the devil and his satellites continually disturb this group of subjects.
- They, on the one hand, infiltrate the church, and on the other, also try to destroy it.

Therefore the words saying that the Lord should let His Kingdom come also mean that the Lord must protect this Kingdom against the devil and his satellites.

- We know that the Lord Himself gave this undertaking that He Personally will protect His church. Consider His words to Peter:
And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 (Matthew 16:18)

With these words the Lord thus makes two promises:

- The first that He Himself will look after/protect His church.
- Secondly is that He will enlarge the church - **I will build my church.**

It is true.

- The complete mankind must first live on earth until the last chosen is born.
- The numbers of the chosen first has to be filled. The church thus indeed expanding, till the predetermined numbers are reached.
- But the church of the Lord must also be expanded across the whole world till the gospel has been brought to all nations.

The Lord, notwithstanding all the attacks by the devil and his powers is thus bringing His church and Kingdom to full maturity.

3. In the third place is this prayer directed to the glory of God.

Indeed all these matters are thus dealing with the glory of the Lord.

- When His Kingdom comes, satan and his subjects will be expelled to hell.
- Then God establishes His perfect Kingdom wherein no evil will ever be done again.

In that Kingdom God is everything in everybody.

And when all things have been subjected unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subjected to him that did subject all things unto him, that God may be all in all.

(1 Corinthians 15:28)

In this way we will forevermore be with the Lord.

In that Kingdom God the Almighty will be worshipped and glorified forever.

- God has revealed something about His perfection and glory that He has – and especially how it will be in the hereafter.

- In the Old and New Testament we read about it:
And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
(Isaiah 6:3)

and the four living creatures, having each one of them six wings, are full of eyes round about and within: and they have no rest day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come
(Revelation 4:8)

Come, let us read together from the Heidelberg Catechism Sunday 48, what our confession teaches about it:

Q. 123.

Which is the second petition?

A.

"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 Song: Scripture Versification 10-1:1,2 [Matthew 6:9-13]

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

Dr MJ Du Plessis
Reformed Church Bellville
9 January 2011
Scripture Modern King James Version