

Catechetical Sermon, May 25th, 2025

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 45 "Prayer"

Scripture Lesson: Romans 8:31-39

Lesson Aim	To understand the nature and the character of prayer that is pleasing to God.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 45 and Romans 8:31-39 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>Why is prayer necessary for Christians? Because it is the chief part of thankfulness, which God requires of us.</p> <p>What do we mean that prayer is the chief part of thankfulness? We mean by this that we pray because we are thankful for what God in Christ has done for us in salvation.</p> <p>What is the prayer, gratitude, prayer dynamic? As we pray in gratitude for what God in Christ has done for us, we feel and appreciate gratitude. As we experience this gratitude, we respond with more prayer.</p> <p>As we pray to the Father, who else prays for us? According to Romans chapter 8 and Hebrews chapter 9, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ pray for us.</p> <p>What does it mean to ask for God's grace and Holy Spirit? It means that we are to desire the strength of God's grace and Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. The prayer is answered on Sundays when we receive God's grace and Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments.</p> <p>Why are we to pray for God the Father through Jesus Christ? First, Jesus Christ is the one mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5) and "no one come to the Father except through [Christ]" (John 14:6). One can only know and approach God through the blood and merits of Jesus Christ. Second, Scriptures state directly that we are to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (see John 14:13-14, 16:23-24 and Ephesians 2:18 ("For through him (Jesus) we both have access in one Spirit to the Father (Eph. 2:18)).</p> <p>What should our position/attitude be in prayer? One of humility, recognizing our need.</p>
Bible Reading	Romans 1-7 (Reading through the New Testament)