

The Lord's Prayer – Lesson Three

The Reception of the Lord's Prayer

The Thesis of This Lesson: the Lord's Prayer has been almost ubiquitous in corporate worship throughout the history of the Church. We ought to be encouraged that when we pray the Lord's Prayer together with a pure and reverent heart, that "we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1).

Liturgy: most basically, liturgy (coming from *lēitos* [public] and *ergos* [working]... "public service") refers to the _____ of a corporate worship service.

- Every individual church has a liturgy. Some are more basic; others are more complex and ritualistic. Some are more helpful, worshipful, and Biblical; others can be distracting and anti-Biblical.

The Lord's Prayer in the Early Church

The Lord's Prayer was likely used as a part of corporate worship as early as the _____ or _____ century:

- *The Didache* (70 – 150 AD)
 - Instructs Christians to pray the Lord's Prayer _____ times a day.
 - This is the earliest use of the Lord's Prayer that we have outside of the Scriptures.

- *Tertullian* (145/160 – 240 AD)
 - Argues that _____ prayers can be 'superadded' to the Lord's Prayer in worship.
 - Refers to the Lord's Prayer as a 'customary' prayer.
- *Cyprian of Carthage* (~200 – 258 AD)
 - Encourages Christians to pray _____ according to the instruction of the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer as a Part of Liturgy

The Lord's Prayer was adopted as a prominent part of Christian liturgy with the rise of Christendom:

- *Jerome* (342/347 – 420 AD)
 - Translates the term *ἐπιούσιος* (the word 'daily' in the Lord's Prayer) as 'supersubstantial.'
 - By the time of Jerome, the 'daily bread' was interpreted to be a reference to the _____. Because the Lord's Supper was the central component of Christian worship, the Prayer was often recited before Communion.
- *The Apostolic Constitutions* (~375/380 AD)
 - Includes the Lord's Prayer as a part of the daily prayers and liturgy.
- *The Medieval Church* (476 – 1517 AD)
 - St. Benedict's Rule: the Lord's Prayer was an essential part of _____ worship.

- The Roman Rite: various writings and sacramentaries of the Roman Catholic Church in the Medieval era show that the Lord's Prayer was often recited in or near the _____.
- *The Reformation (1517 – 1648 AD)*
 - Martin Luther used the Lord's Prayer (along with the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed) as the basis for his catechisms.
 - Thomas Cranmer included the Lord's Prayer in the Anglican _____ as a part of the Morning and Evening prayers, as well as a pre-Communion prayer.
- *Charles H. Spurgeon (1834 – 1892 AD)*
 - "Thus from a sense of adoption, up to fellowship with our reigning Lord, this short model of prayer conducts the soul. Lord, teach us thus to pray" (*Morning and Evening*).
- *Billy Graham (1918 – 2018)*
 - "Since the beginning, Jesus' followers have memorized the Lord's Prayer and used it in their worship. And with good reason, because He gave it to His disciples as an _____ or _____ for them to follow [...] At the same time, simply saying a memorized prayer doesn't accomplish anything if we aren't paying attention to its meaning and saying it from our hearts" (*Answers*).

The Lord's Prayer in Baptist History

While not used often in Baptist liturgy, the Lord's Prayer has been considered a prominent lynchpin of Christian worship:

- *William Carey (1761 – 1834 AD)*
 - "One of the first, and most important of those duties which are incumbent upon us, is *fervent and* _____ *prayer* [...] Many can do nothing but pray, and prayer is perhaps the only thing in which Christians of all denominations can cordially, and unreservedly unite; but in this we may all be one, and in this the strictest unanimity ought to prevail" (*Enquiry*).