

Our First Priority (Matt 6:9)

Introduction: *Review*

The Lord is teaching us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt 6:33). Prayer is to be the overflow of our God-ward lives.

The Meaning of our First Petition: “Hallowed Be Thy Name”

Prayer is not words with empty hearts (v. 7). *Prayer is not for the glory of our name* (v. 5). Prayer is first and foremost for the glory of God’s name.

Q. 190. *What do we pray for in the first petition?* **A.** In the first petition, (which is, Hallowed be thy name)^(a) acknowledging the utter inability and indisposition that is in ourselves and all men to honor God aright,^(b) we pray, that God would by his grace enable and incline us and others to know, to acknowledge, and highly to esteem him,^(c) his titles,^(d) attributes,^(e) ordinances, word,^(f) works, and whatsoever he is pleased to make himself known by;^(g) and to glorify him in thought, word,^(h) and deed:⁽ⁱ⁾ that he would prevent and remove atheism,^(k) ignorance,^(l) idolatry,^(m) profaneness,⁽ⁿ⁾ and whatsoever is dishonorable to him;^(o) and, by his over-ruling providence, direct and dispose of all things to his own glory.^(p) (a) Matt. 6:9 (b) 2Cor. 3:5; Ps. 51:15 (c) Ps. 67:2,3 (d) Ps. 83:18 (e) Ps. 86:10-13,15 (f) 2Th. 3:1; Ps. 147:19,20; Ps. 138:1-3; 2Cor. 2:14,15 (g) Ps. 145; Ps. 8 (h) Ps. 103:1; Ps. 19:14 (i) Phil. 1:9,11 (k) Ps. 67:1-4 (l) Eph. 1:17,18 (m) Ps. 97:7 (n) Ps. 74:18,22,23 (o) 2Ki. 19:15,16 (p) 2Chron. 20:6,10-12; Ps. 83; Ps. 140:4,8

Application: *The significance of our first priority*

1. *Is this our first priority in prayer and in life?*

“I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen” (Exo 14:17).

“Deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name’s sake!” (Psa 79:9). “That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.” (Eph 1:6, 12, 14). The gospel is of primary importance, for how else could “atheism, ignorance, idolatry,[and] profaneness” be swept away? But these are means to the end of God’s glory.

2. *How can we labor in order that men would glorify our Father in Heaven?*

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mat 5:14-16). “Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law” (Psa 119:136, 2Pe 2:8, Neh 2:2).

“See the true note and character of a godly person: he is a sanctifier of God’s name. A true saint ambitiously endeavours to advance God’s name. The question he asks himself in everything he is going about is, Will this action tend to the honour of God’s name? Will it exalt God? It was Paul’s chief design that Christ might be magnified, that the crown upon his head might flourish. Phil 1: 20. A godly man thinks it scarce worth his while to live if he may not bring some revenues of honour to God’s name” (Watson, p. 46).

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? “Father, save Me from this hour?” But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name” (John 12:27-28). “*The desire of our soul is for Your name*” (Isa 26:8).

From Thomas Watson, *The Lord’s Prayer*

When may we be said to hallow and sanctify God’s name?

- [1] When we profess his name. ...
- [2] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we have a high appreciation and esteem of him, and set him highest in our thoughts. ...
- [3] We hallow and sanctify his name when we trust in it. 'We have trusted in his holy name.' Psa 33:21. ...
- [4] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we never make mention of it but with the highest reverence. ... 'Blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all praise.' Neh 9: 5. ...
- [5] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we love his name. 'Let them that love thy name be joyful.' Ps 5:11. The love which honors God’s name must be special and discriminating love - the cream and flower of our love...
- [6] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we give him a holy and spiritual worship. (1) When we give him the same kind of worship that he has appointed. 'I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me.' that is, I will be sanctified with that very worship I have appointed. Lev 10: 3. ... (2) When we give to God the same heart devotion in worship that he has appointed. 'Fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.' Rom 12: 11. ...
- [7] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we hallow his day. 'Hallow ye the sabbath day.' Jer 17: 22. ...
- [8] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we ascribe the honour of all we do to him. 'Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name.' Psa 96: 8. Herod, instead of hallowing God’s name, dishonoured it by assuming that praise to himself which was due to God only. Acts 12: 23. ...
- [9] We hallow and sanctify God’s name by obeying him. How does a son more honour his father than by obedience? 'I delight to do thy will, O my God.'...
- [10] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we lift up his name in our praises. ... What were our tongues given for but to be organs of God’s praise? 'Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.' Psa 71: 8. ...
- [11] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we sympathise with him; when we grieve when his name suffers. (1) We lay to heart his dishonour. How was Moses affected with God’s dishonour! He broke the tables. Exod 32:19. ... (2) We grieve when God’s church is brought low, because his name suffers. Nehemiah lays to heart the miseries of Sion; his complexion begins to alter, and he looks sad. 'Why is thy countenance sad?' Neh 2: 2. ...
- [12] We hallow and sanctify God’s name when we give the same honour to God the Son that we give to God the Father. 'That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.' John 5: 23. ...
- [13] We hallow God’s name by standing up for his truths. ... Jude 3 ...
- [14] We hallow and sanctify God’s name by making as many proselytes as we can to him; when, by all holy expedients, counsel, prayer, example, we endeavour the salvation of others. ...
- [15] We hallow God’s name when we prefer the honour of his name before the dearest things. ...
- [16] We hallow and sanctify God’s name by a holy conversation. 'Ye are a royal priesthood, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who has called you.' I Pet 2: 9. ...