

SERMON: A PERTINENT PETITION FOR PERILOUS TIMES

Matthew 6:13b

But deliver us from evil.

Introduction

As I am sure most of us know, this text is part of the Model Prayer which we commonly call the Lord's Prayer. It can be sincerely recited verbatim or can be used as an example of what elements should be included in our daily prayers. This prayer is not an emergency prayer such as Peter prayed when he was sinking as he walked on water. I repeat this is a model for our daily prayer life. Just as medical doctors monitor vital signs, such as blood pressure and temperature to determine the status of our physical health, there are vital signs to determine the status of our spiritual health. One of these vital signs is the consistency and the frequency of our prayer life.

The Bible is both timeless and timely. Its truths are eternal, yet relevant for the situations we encounter today and will encounter in the future. It was really ahead of its time in many ways. It has an app for any difficulty we may encounter. Technology had to catch up with theology. I repeat: The Bible has an app for any difficulty we may encounter. This is an app when we encounter the evils of this sin cursed world. Let's see what this pericope reveals.

Exposition

1. The Reality of Evil.

(Evil Is Universal-It Comes In All Forms.)

2. The Mystery Of Evil.

(Why Does God Allow It?)

(The Petition Is Not That Evil Be Abolished.)

(Don't Let The Mystery Minimize Your Faith.)

(Life Has A Lot Of Mysteries.)

3. The Rescue From Evil.

(God Hears Our Prayers And Delivers Us.)

(That's The Good News.)

(Nothing Can Separate Us From The Love Of God.)

Closing Statements

The complete answer to this petition will come at the end of this life on earth. Heaven is a place of perfect holiness where we shall be delivered from both the presence and the

practice of evil. Meanwhile, day by day, let us do God's will and pray, "Deliver us from evil. God will certainly answer our prayers. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

End Notes:

1. Seven is the number of completeness in the Bible. It is of special interest that the Master gave us just seven petitions in the Model Prayer. This could indicate that He knew the seven petitions covered every need that people might bring to God. "Deliver us from evil" is the last of the petitions.

2. The Model Prayer has a beautiful structure. It begins with praise and adorations and ends with the same. Sandwiched between are the petitions. All prayers- except emergency prayers- should begin and end with ascriptions of praise and worship. The requests should be in the middle.

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