

Study Guide: The Aim of Prayer

Carter Sanger, May-10

Introduction

- What do you pray for when you pray?
- If you were to review your prayers, would you find a common thread?

Read Matthew 6:9-13

I. Purpose

You were made with a purpose. Our culture teaches that everyone must discover his own purpose.

- Does the Bible agree with this assessment? Do you agree?
- According to verse 9b, Jesus sets his aim for his prayer. What can you derive from Jesus' model prayer about our purpose?
- The Westminster Catechisms begin with a question about purpose: *What is man's primary purpose? Man's primary purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.* How do you think redirecting your life around God's designed purpose might benefit you?

II. Person

In the Bible, you can't separate God's name from God. When Jesus' prays that God's name be hallowed, he's praying that God would be hallowed. But we know God through the name he reveals to us.

- Read Exodus 3:13-14. What name does God give Moses? Could anyone else go by this name? Why or why not? An extrapolation of this name can be found in Revelation 1:8 and 22:13. How does this reinforce the significance of Jesus' identified purpose? Is there any purpose greater?
- Read Exodus 3:15-16. To whom has God made promises and revealed this name? Why is God revealing this name to Moses? What is God about to do?
- Read Matthew 1:21. Why is Jesus given his name? How does this connect with the context of God's revelation of His name to Moses?
- Can you derive confidence from your own righteousness and pray "Hallowed by God's name" at the same time?

III. Passion

The word "hallow" means to set apart as holy but also carries with it a connotation of worship. True worship flows from the heart.

- Have you ever flattered a teacher as a subtle means of winning brownie points? How does that compare with the flattery you give to the one you love?
- Read Psalm 37:4. We must marry our passion to our purpose. Can you think of a way you might do this?

Wrap-up

- The first petition sets the context for the entirety of the Lord's Prayer. Read each of the remaining petitions with the phrase "so that God's name is hallowed" at the end. How does this change your perspective of prayer?