

The Third Petition



Opening Prayer

Father, dear Father, may your will be done – ah, that is my heart’s one true delight: I know what your will is; you have made it abundantly clear in your Word, on the cross of Christ, in my Baptism, in the Holy Supper. Your will is that I should have you for time and for eternity as my Father, my dear Father. But you must accomplish your will in me through that Word; else I will do my own natural will, and that to my doom, that to my ruin with the devil and his angels. Oh keep me from this Lord, your will be done. If ever any of my little plans or desires is in conflict with your plan of bringing all things together under Christ, carry out your will, not mine. Govern history so that your plan of salvation in Christ may be fulfilled. Amen.

Lesson Aim: Do you know the answer to the old joke; Where does an 800-pound gorilla sleep? (Anywhere he wants.) You would think it would work just about the same way for God and his will. After all, he’s God. He can do anything he wants to do. So why do we pray “Your will be done”? That’s a good question! We’ll find out the answer to this question today: What do we ask God to do when we pray the Third Petition?

Part One

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-4.

- 1) What does God want for his believers regarding the way they live their lives?
- 2) What do these verses urge us to do more and more?
- 3) What do these verses say God’s will is?

Read Mark 16:15.

- 4) What is it that God wants us to do in our world?

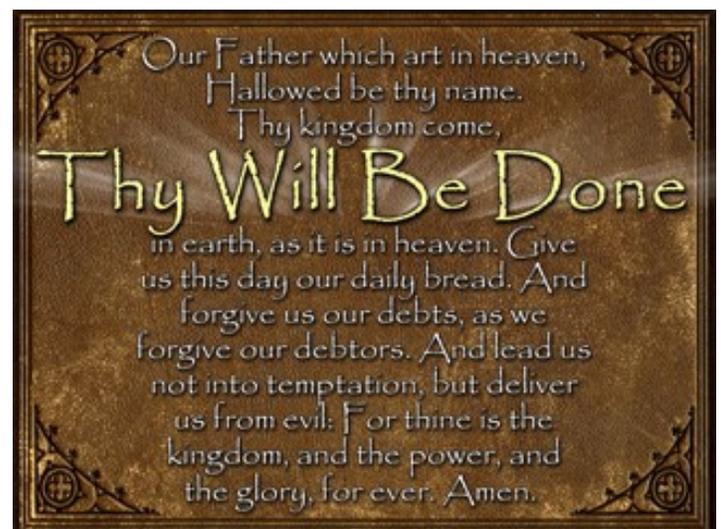
Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

- 5) What does God want for all people?

Read John 6:40.

- 6) What is God’s will?

KEY POINT 1 - God’s will is that all people live holy lives to his glory, and that his Word is preached purely, so that all people believe in Jesus and are saved.



Part One continues on the next page...

Imagine that every person in Wisconsin is dying of a strange new disease, and you know the cure that can save them all. The reality is that we live in a very sick world, and you have the cure. The cure is the gospel. God wants the gospel to be shared with all people. God wants all people to be saved, even evil dictators and mass murderers. It is God's will that the gospel be preached purely, so that all will believe in Jesus and be saved, and that all will live holy lives to his glory.

What I've learned so far:

Part Two

Read Genesis 3:1-5.

- 1) What did the serpent cause Eve to doubt?
- 2) God's will is opposed by whom?

Read Matthew 26:36-46.

- 3) What does Jesus pray? What does he want?
- 4) What does Jesus tell to his disciples when he comes back from praying the first time?
- 5) What in this story is in danger of getting in the way of God's will being done?

Read Psalm 143:10 and Romans 12:2.

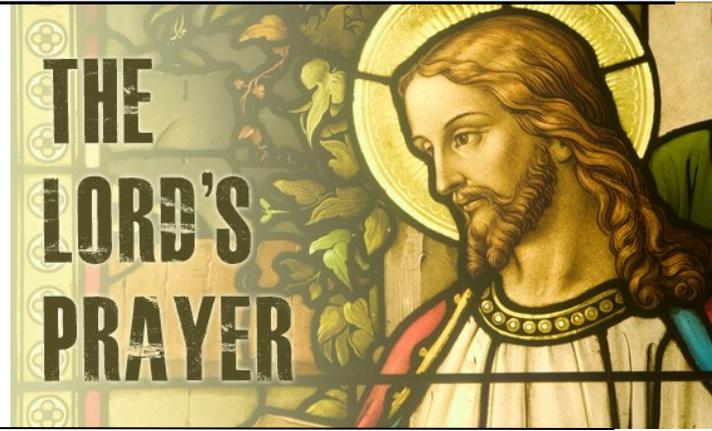
- 6) What does a believer want to know?
- 7) What distracts us from knowing it?
- 8) Recognize and list ways by which we daily become stumbling blocks for the carrying out of God's will.

KEY POINT 2 - The devil, the world, and our own sinful nature want to keep God's will from being done.

God's will can be done among us only when God breaks the power of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh and also strengthens our faith and keeps us firm in his Word as long as we live.



Main point – In this petition, we ask God to help us do his will, rather than the will of the devil, the world or our sinful nature.



Final Considerations:

- 1) Sometimes Christians will ignore doing what God says, choose to sin even though they know it's wrong, and yet say, "It's OK. God will forgive me anyway." How would you answer a person who does and says that?
- 2) Think of some things that you hear in songs you listen to, things you see on TV and things you read about in books. What kinds of things encourage you not to do God's will? What can you do about that so that you are doing what God wants?
- 3) Since it is God's will that all people believe in Jesus, why doesn't he just make everyone believe in Jesus?
- 4) Why do you think Jesus didn't include this petition in the account of the Lord's Prayer in Luke?
- 5) The good and gracious will of God is that _____.
 - A. all Christians should reunite at once into one church so that they may work together more effectively in the preaching of the gospel.
 - B. his name be kept holy and his kingdom come.
 - C. we Christians should all work together to eliminate sickness and suffering, poverty and want, war and hatred, and all kinds of prejudice, especially by the passage of proper laws to bring about these reforms.



Write your expounded version of the Third Petition.

- **Commit to Memory**
- The Third Petition (with *What Does This Mean?* and *How is God's Will Done?*)

What I've learned about the Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer: