**The Lord’s Prayer: 2nd Petition – “Your Kingdom Come!”**

*“We pray then that God’s kingdom may come, that is, that day by day our Lord may increase the number of those who are his subjects and his faithful people, so that they may glorify him in every way, and that he may ever more fully impart and multiply his gifts to those whom he has already called into his kingdom; and that through these he may more and more reign in them until, having perfectly united them to himself, he fills them completely. We pray also that he may increasingly send forth his light and his truth, thus scattering, dispelling, vanquishing and destroying the darkness and lies of the devil and his henchmen”* (Calvin, Institutes, 547).

1. **What do we mean by Kingdom?[[1]](#footnote-1)**
	1. God’s providential kingdom:
		* 1. **Psalm 103:19;** **Daniel 4:34-35**
			2. **Gen. 50:20**; **Acts 2:23**
	2. A kingdom of *grace* and a kingdom of *glory*.
		1. **Kingdom of grace**
		2. **Kingdom of glory**
2. **This petition implies that we are born in the kingdom of darkness.**
	1. The state of nature, by virtue of the fall is that we are in a kingdom of darkness.
		1. What does it look and feel like to be in his kingdom?
			1. **Ephesians 2:1-3**
			2. **Romans 6:17-21**
			3. **2 Corinthians 4:4**
			4. **John 8:39-47**
			5. **Matthew 8:28**
3. **We pray that Christ’s kingdom would come, and this implies that Satan’s kingdom would be destroyed.**
4. **And so, we pray that the kingdom of grace be set-up in our hearts and in the hearts of those held captive under the tyrants reign.**
	* + 1. **Col. 1:12-14**
			2. **Eph. 2:3-8**
		1. “When grace comes there is a kingly government setup in the soul. Grace rules the will and the affections, and brings the whole man in subjection to Christ; it kings the soul, sways the scepter, subdues mutinous lusts, and keeps the soul in spiritual order.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
			1. **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

“Hypocrites would have Christ to be their savior, but they pluck the government from his shoulders, and will not have him rule; but he who has the kingdom of God within him, submits cheerfully to every command of God; he will do what God will have him do; he will be what God will have him be; he puts a blank paper into God’s hand, and says ‘Lord, write whatever you will, and I will subscribe.’ Blessed is he who finds these things in his soul…He carries a kingdom about him, and this kingdom of grace will certainly bring to a kingdom of glory.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

* + - 1. **1 Peter 5:15**
1. **We want to pray kingdom prayers for our church, for our community, for our families, and for ourselves.[[4]](#footnote-4)**
	1. Kingdom prayers are concerned with spiritual renewal, revival etc. What do we mean?
		1. There is an outpouring of the Spirit on and within the congregation *through the ordinary means of grace*, so that the presence of God among his people becomes evident and palpable.
			* 1. **2 Corinthians 4:1-6**
				2. **1 Corinthians 2:6-14**
		2. As a result of this outpouring of the Spirit, new people are brought into the church and it begins to grow.
	2. How does this spiritual renewal come?
		1. First, a return to the proper and clear proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments.
		2. Second, through corporate, prevailing, intensive, kingdom-centered prayer.
1. As in past lessons, I’m leaning heavily upon the works of the following men, with growing appreciation for the work of Thomas Watson. Quite frankly, it’s the singularly best work on the Lord’s Prayer I’ve read and I commend it as strongly as possible. Watson, *Lord’s Prayer*; Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*; Packer, *Praying the Lord’s Prayer*; Ryken, *When You Pray*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Watson, *Lord’s Prayer*, 62. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid., 71. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Much of the following is owed to: Keller, “Kingdom-Centered Prayer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)