

Women's Thursday Bible Class - Larger Catechism - 2021 #9 Lesson

Presently in the questions regarding Means of Grace

Law of God, WORD - all but especially preaching, the Two sacraments, and now Prayer

- remembering that the fruit, blessings, benefits, etc. are not tied to time

Last lesson on the Lord's Supper

- remembering that the sacramental elements and the sacramental actions(by the minister and the people) point dramatically to the spiritual grace signified
- Not merely a memorial of Christ's death
- But a spiritual participation in the body and blood of Christ
- So a very solemn act of worship
- Clearly the Reformed position historically differing from the Catholic , but even from Lutheran, Other Protestant

Introduction to Prayer

Goals as we go through questions

1. Understand from Scripture clearly teaches
2. Practice what we learn ! Become better prayers /Maybe we can understand better why we don't pray

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones on Eph. 6:18. (mljtrust.com)

Vital connect with all the pieces of spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Communion with God

All kinds of prayer - elaborate

Key - " in the Spirit"

Q. and A. # 178 - what is prayer? Nature of Christian Prayer

- offering up desires to God only
- In the name of Christ
- By the help of the Holy Spirit
- With confession of sin
- Thankfulness of his mercies
- " for things agreeable to his will" adds the Shorter Catechism

Note: the more extensive answers of Larger Catechism # 179-185 elaborate on all these - i.e. What makes Christian prayer distinctive and acceptable?

Q. and A. # 179 - God only?

Comment briefly on Rome's teaching

Why God alone? Some of answer seems so obvious from the nature of God

Only He is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, infinite, eternal, unchangeable,....I Kings 8:39, Is. 1:18, Mark 2:1-12

Ps. 145:18-19

CRT - fallacy that it takes God totally out of the equation. Quote from Dr. Vos - "we live in a day when many people think of sin only in terms of its effects on human society; we should remember that the effects on human society are only a side issue or a byproduct of sin; the real and great evil is the offense committed against God; only God can forgive that." He can redeem people, through Jesus Christ!

Q. and A. #180 - in the name of Christ

In obedience -Jn. 14:13-14 and 16:23-24

In confidence - Heb. 4:14-16 and I John 5:13-15

Asking mercy Luke 18:9-14

More than merely mentioning rote words Mat. 7:21

Resting on Christ's past and present mediation

Q. and A. # 181 - Why in His name?

Great sinfulness

Great distance

No access into Holy Presence

None other than Christ qualified

How does the Old Testament teach this by pictures?

Jn. 14:6 , 16:27 and Is. 59:2 and Col. 3:17

Heb. 7:25-27 ;

I Tim. 2:5

The book of Hebrews all throughout argues the supremacy and the high priesthood of Christ. He is the Priest of the New Covenant. Heb. 1:3, 2:17, 8:6,9:15, 28; 12:24

Previous LC question# 44, as we were considering the 3- fold offices of Christ, and his unique qualifications as Mediator

How is this command to pray in Jesus name most commonly violated?

Q. and A. # 182 - how doth the Spirit help us?

Rom. 8:26-27

Ps. 10:17 and Zechariah. 12:10

Eph. 5:17-18 **and * 6:18**

Jude 20 and Phil 3:3

Why do we need the Spirit to help us? What infirmities?

Can our prayers be devoid of the Spirit?

How can the Scriptures help us ' frame ' our prayers?

Sharing insights from Dr. MLJ:

What not

What looks like for us in practice

- realizing coming into God's holy presence only by the blood and righteousness of Christ
- In His Presence
- Freedom and warmth (read again the although passage from answer) - need His stirring our affections and increasing in us the graces we lack (humility, perseverance, faith.....)
- The Spirit is life giving so vital and essential to true prayer
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Next week: Q. and A. 183-187.