

The Lord's Prayer as an Apologetic

While many books and articles exist on the *Lord's Prayer*, few if any look at it as a statement of apologetics, or a world-and-life view. This seminar purposes to look at the *Lord's Prayer* as a transforming vision. Prayer itself is essential to Christian apologetics; the defense and commendation of the Christian faith. Each of the petitions can be understood as a point of apologetics, because they take a particular part of life and look for renovation in our individual and corporate lives as we face them. Each of them is counter-cultural, and calls for radical change through the presence of God clothed in the Gospel.

William Edgar is currently Professor of Apologetics at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, USA. He was previously Professor of Apologetics at the Reformed Seminary in Aix-en-Provence. Before that he taught high school in Greenwich, CT, USA. He holds the Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Music, from Harvard College, and the Docteur en Théologie from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. His principal research interests are in cultural apologetics, African-American history and music, the music of Brahms, the French Huguenots, 19th century French church history, and the art of Paul Cézanne. His is widely published in those areas. Edgar is a jazz pianist and runs a Gospel-Jazz band. His chief avocations are running, reading novels and history, listening to modern French organ music, and watching Brazilian soccer-football. His wife Barbara and he have two children and three grandchildren.

I Why pray at all?

- A. Obstacles
 - 1. Our timorous prayer habits
 - 2. A God not big enough
- B. Three intercessors
- C. Why pray, when God is sovereign?
- D. Is prayer always answered?

II The setting for the Lord's Prayer

III Prayer and the coming kingdom

- A. Is there a central theme?
- B. The kingdom of God
 - 1. In the Old Testament
 - 2. The character of the kingdom
 - 3. The kingdom and the church

IV Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

- A. Of names and character
 - 1. A father and the Father
 - 2. Divine providence
- B. Heaven
 - 1. The dwelling place of God
 - 2. The realm of God's rule and righteousness
 - 3. Where we can live already with Christ
- C. His name is holy
 - 1. "Thy" is said by sons and daughters
 - 2. Holiness explained
- D. Our homeless mind

V Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

- A. The already-not-yet of the presence of the kingdom
 - 1. Judgment and renewal
 - 2. How far and how long?
- B. Idols for destruction
- C. Toward the abundant life: missions and revitalization
- D. Thy will be done
 - 1. What is the will of God?
 - 2. Finding God's will

VI Give us this day our daily bread

- A. How much is enough?
 - 1. Sources and nature of poverty
 - 2. How concerned is Jesus?
 - 3. True contentment
 - 4. The joy of the Lord
- B. The wise art of giving
 - 1. Sacrifice
 - 2. Relief and Reform

C. Spiritual Food

VII Forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors

A. Debts, trespasses and sins

1. The seriousness of sin
2. More than rules

B. What I owe my neighbor

1. A forgiven person naturally forgives others
2. The priority of reconciliation
3. Debtor nations

C. Unforgiveable sin?

D. Christ's heavenly intercession

VIII Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

A. Temptations and trials

B. The problem of evil

1. Bad solutions
2. Better ones
3. Satan and the demonic

- C. A God with wounds
 - 1. Perfect timing
 - 2. Final victory

IX For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen

- A. True doxology
- B. Authentic rule and power