

“For Yours Is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory Forever”
Matthew 6:13

Everyone is a worshipper – we were made to worship. (see Deut 11:16) We will fall down before a “god”, we will make our own “god”, or we will declare ourselves “god”. Every crisis in life is a test of worship – a question of who or what we believe will deliver us. To simplify, we will either declare “mine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,” or, “thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory.” One is a prayer of separation – “My way, my truth, my life” (want to create a little hell on earth – just pray that prayer all day.) One is the prayer of union – “Your way, Your truth, Your life” (want to bring heaven to earth – pray that prayer throughout the day!)

“Mine” wishes or requires an assumption of Fatherlessness – this was the prayer of the prodigal, of the younger brother in Luke 15:11-32. “Thine” is the prayer of children who are trusting that their Father knows best – this was the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. One embraces self-rule, self-help, self-exaltation, the other embraces Father-rule, Father-help, Father-exaltation.

When we pray “Thine – Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory” we are not making God “King,” we are simply coming to an agreement that He is. And as the Old Testament prophet Amos testified to, “How can two walk in step without an agreement?” (Amos 3:3). For disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, our agreement is to meet God at the altar of worship in each and every crisis! “Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory” is our centering prayer throughout the day... every day... many times a day. Religious activities in religious meetings with a religious community once or twice a week is no substitute for this.

We pray: “Yours is the kingdom and You are its only King. Your reign and Your rule override every other voice and I bow the knee of my heart before Your ‘say so.’ Yours is the power and You are the strength of Your own Kingdom. I need You power – Your dynamic, energizing, operational power – for Your purposes. I will gladly boast of my weaknesses so You may be strong in and through me. Yours is the glory and You are its only deserving object. The very meaning of this moment and the reason for my being in it is to glorify You - I am ready to pay the price so you may be revealed and honored in and through me.”

Such praying makes a sacrament of every present moment. Some translations leave this clause out supposing it to be a scribal “gloss.” Perhaps – but if I were you, I would not leave it out of my praying!



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Greetings

In our home church here in Alachua, our pastor is preaching about living a different kind of life. The kind of life that takes place with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Sprit at the center of who we are and what we do.

A "Thee-ological" life certainly makes for a different kind of life - an uncommon life very different from the more commonly known "me-ological" ways of living, moving, and having our being. One is built upon Christ-esteem while the other is centered in self-esteem. One is Christ-edited while in the other we prefer to be our own self-determining, self-interested editors.

Me-ologians have an inclination to fulfill Laurence Peter's famous principle known as "The Peter Principle" - the natural tendency is for people to rise to the level of their incompetence! Thee-ologians have a proclivity to fulfilling the Apostle Peter's famous precept - the spiritual tendency to rise to the level of competency in Christ! He put it like this, "You shall be holy - uncommonly and uniquely different - because I am holy!" (I Pet 1:16)

Yes, I know... its an imperative. But do you also know it is a promise?!

Calendar





JUNE

2 First Baptist Church Alachua
11 Alachua Study
25 Ocala Study

JULY

19-21 Waymart, PA (607-341-6062)
28 First Baptist Church Alachua

Praise & Prayer

-  Invitation to crown Christ King in all of life
-  The power of God for our weaknesses
-  Christ-esteeming, Christ-edited churches
-  Rise to the level of competency in Christ