

TEACHING GOAL

To study the implications of hallowing (consecrating) the name of God.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

Q. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. In the first petition (which is, Hallowed be Thy name) we pray, that God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all that whereby He makes Himself known; and that He would dispose all things to His own glory.

S.C. 101; L.C. 190; W.C. of F. XXI; Savoy 22; Young 109-111

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: Isaiah 30:27-33

Support Passages: Exodus 3:15, 33:18-19; Psalm 67, 83:18, 86:10-15; Proverbs 18:10; II Corinthians 3:5; Ephesians 1:17-18

BIBLE STORY

I Kings 18:17-41; The contest of names.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.” (Psalm 8:1, ESV)

APPLICATION

We should pray that YAHWEH will make His voice of authority to be heard in all the nations that all mankind will repent and turn to the Lord.

SUMMARY

In the first petition of the Lord's Prayer we pray that God would cause His name to be sanctified by the nations. To hallow means to set apart, consecrate, make holy, or sanctify. It is a passive verb meaning that beings other than God are to hallow the name of God yet sinful human beings are utterly indisposed and unable to do so. We will not, in and of ourselves, honor God properly. Therefore we pray that God Himself would cause His own name to be hallowed.

According to Exodus 3:15 (ESV) Moses was to say to Israel, "*The Lord (YAHWEH), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.*" Thus YAHWEH is God's proper name and we note from the context of this verse that the word we translate I AM is closely related to it.¹ The name YAHWEH means The Existing One, or perhaps The One Who Lives, and is represented in the Hebrew Bible with the Tetragrammaton YHWH. English translations of the Bible generally denote YHWH with LORD. In addition God has revealed Himself with other names or titles such as El Shaddai, YAHWEH Nissi, YAHWEH Jireh, and YAHWEH Shalom.²

Moses was said to be a friend of God to whom YAHWEH used to speak face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.³ But Moses wanted more than this and he prayed, "Please show me your glory!" God responded as follows: "*I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.'*(YAHWEH) *And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy*".⁴ Moses could not see the actual glory of God and live, therefore, God revealed His goodness, His name YAHWEH, and His sovereignty to him. The glory of God is comprehended in His goodness and in His name and in His sovereignty all of which He has revealed to us in the pages of Scripture. In order to enable our foolish hearts and minds to understand and accept the things of the Spirit of God we pray the first petition of the Lord's Prayer.

In these last days God has expressly revealed Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ who, "comes with the name YAHWEH".⁵ He too bears divine titles and names in addition to the name YAHWEH such as, Alpha and Omega, Amen, Apostle of Our Confession, Blessed and Only Potentate, Bread of Life, Chief Shepherd, Desire of All Nations, Everlasting Father, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Faithful Witness, God, Holy One, Immanuel, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Lamb of God, Rock, Savior, The Truth, The Way, The

¹ See *Family Catechism Lesson Year 1 Lesson 5*

² God Almighty, YAHWEH is my Banner, YAHWEH will provide, and YAHWEH is Peace

³ Exodus 33:11

⁴ Exodus 33:19, ESV

⁵ Psalm 118:26, Matthew 21:9

Life, and The Word of God.

Isaiah writes, "The name YAHWEH comes from afar"⁶ and he goes on to associate the name YAHWEH with a person who is powerful, just, holy, good and truthful. When we are rightly related to YAHWEH He gives us songs in the night and gladness of heart. We pray "hallowed be your name," and God responds by causing "his majestic voice to be heard"⁷ and He rewards faithfulness with contentment and happiness but punishes the unrepentant in the fires of hell.⁸ Because God is pleased to hallow His name among the nations, to make His way known upon the earth,⁹ He blesses us and is gracious to us and brings salvation to all the nations. He blesses us in order that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.¹⁰

Indeed let us pray God to hallow His name, to teach us His way so that we may walk in His truth.¹¹ Let us pray that God would unite our hearts to fear His name, to give thanks to Him and glorify His name forever. "*The name of the Lord (YAHWEH) is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.*"¹²

⁶ Isaiah 30:27, ESV

⁷ Isaiah 30:30, ESV

⁸ Topheth – Isaiah 30:33

⁹ Psalm 67:2

¹⁰ Psalm 67:7

¹¹ Psalm 86:11

¹² Proverbs 18:10, ESV