



PRAYER

For This Day

Each "Prayer For This Day" will have a new picture of God's creation. By observing the majestic and intricate parts of God's creation, we can be reminded of His power in every aspect of our lives.

Sunday, March 29, 2020

This prayer - which is designed to fine tune us for Christ-centered and gospel-centered worship - is an adaptation of Tim Keller's comparison of "religion" and "the gospel", page 16, *Gospel in Life - Grace Changes Everything*.

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to us in all your goodness, mercy and compassion. Thank You for Your Word which tells us the story of the lengths You went to buy us back from the prince of this world.

Father, forgive me for ever thinking You accept me because I'm good at obeying You. Help me to think instead, "I'm accepted, therefore I obey."

Forgive me for doing so many things out of fear and insecurity. Help me to operate out of grateful joy.

When circumstances in my life go wrong, I become angry with You or with myself because I cannot help thinking that if I behave, I should have a comfortable life. When circumstances in my life do go wrong, and I struggle, remind me that all my punishment fell on Jesus, and that while You may allow this for my training, You will exercise Your Fatherly love within my trial.

Lord, I become either furious - or devastated - when I am criticized. I have to think of myself as a "good person". I try to destroy threats to that image at all costs. Lord, help me see that it really is not essential for me to see myself as a "good person" - that my identity is not built on my record or my performance, but on God's love for me in Christ.

Father, I confess that my prayer life consists mostly of me asking You for things. It really only heats up when I am in a time of need. My main purpose in prayer is to control my environment. So work in my heart, Father, that my prayer life would consist of generous stretches of praise and adoration. Help me make my main purpose to be fellowship with You.

Lord, You know the way I see myself swings between two poles. If and when I am living up to my standards, I feel confident, but then I am prone to be unsympathetic and proud to failing people. If and when I am not living up to my standards, I feel humble but not confident - I feel like a failure. Bring me to the point where my view of my self is not based on my moral achievement. I know that in Jesus I am, at the same time, both sinful, woefully inadequate - AND accepted in Him. I am so bad that He had to die for me, and I am so loved that He was glad to die for me. Lord, grant me deep humility and unshaken confidence at the same time.

Father, my identity and self-worth have been based on how hard I work, or how moral I am - and so I must look down on those I think are lazy or immoral. Lord, help me to see myself - and to value myself - in a way that is completely centered on Jesus, the One who died for me. Give me the realization that I am saved by sheer grace, so I can't look down on those who believe or practice something different from me. Help me to truly accept in the very core of my being, and let it flow through everything I think, say or do, that it is only by Your grace that I am what I am.

O God, our Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, give me Your grace, mercy and peace, from now on, and for ever. Amen.