'The Lord's Prayer: part 2' Matt. 6:9-15

I. God's program. vs. 10 'your kingdom come.'

What does this mean? It's a prayer for God to establish His reign in the hearts and minds of people here and now and it's a request for Jesus to return and set up His literal kingdom on this actual planet.

II. God's plan. vs. 10b 'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'

When we pray this, one thing we are praying for is that God's will -will become our will. It says 'your will be done', but we usually want our will to be done. Also, we are praying that His will, will prevail all over the earth just as it already does prevail and is done perfectly now in heaven.

III. God's provision. vs. 11 *'Give us this day, our daily bread'*

In this marvelous guide for our prayers, it now shifts from like God's prayer list to our prayer list. Is He just talking about a loaf of whole wheat bread here? In this verse, bread refers not just to ______, but is symbolic of all our physical needs. It includes everything we need to stay alive, such as food, water, air, rest, and in these northern climates, warm clothes and shelter. It shows He cares even about our physical needs and wants us to pray about them.

IV. God's pardon. vs. 12 'and forgive us our sins'

- A. Sin is that which separates us from God and is therefore our biggest problem. If our biggest problem is sin, then our greatest need is forgiveness. We all need the on-going cleansing and forgiveness of our sins. Why? Because we continue to sin. 1 Jn. 1:9,10 Notice that this whole prayer can be a daily prayer as we pray for our daily physical needs and daily spiritual needs.
- B. Notice too, how Jesus ties it in with forgiving ______. A Christian who is aware of all that he has been forgiven by God will find it much easier to forgive others. In fact, this is such a big deal that Jesus goes on after this prayer and elaborates more on just this point. It's the only point He makes further comment on, thus stressing how important it is that we forgive others.

V. God's protection. vs. 13 'And lead us not into temptation'

A. This is an honest prayer that wants to escape all prospects of falling into sin. It is wise to seek to avoid temptation in the first place.

Also, we see here that we need to pray for God's protection from all the evil in the world today, including the evil one, Satan, as he tries to knock us down each day.

VI. God's preeminence. vs. 13

A. Notice in the margins or in brackets in some, the words: 'For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' Our very earliest Greek manuscripts of this passage do not include this ending. However, the words fit perfectly in this passage. They express ideas that are totally biblical and they are almost identical to a verse in 1 Chron. 29, so feel free to use this beautiful ending which makes a fitting close to this prayer, all showing the true idea of the preeminence of God!

Conclusion: What a great prayer! Memorize it, use it _____ as an outline for your own prayers, starting out with the glory and plans of God, then moving on to your own personal needs, physical needs, spiritual needs and daily protection. It's a marvelous guide for prayers.

Again, what a privilege to pray, to just talk with God. He hears you. He wants you to talk with Him. He is there. You are not alone, no matter where you are. Be a person of prayer!