

Jesus Lives!

September 3, 2006

Lord's Prayer # 8
The Kingdom, Power, and Glory are Yours.

I hope you have enjoyed our summer series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer as much as I've enjoyed preparing them.

We plan on having these sermons available on our website soon as well as some copies on our welcome counter.

Today we close our look at the Lord's Prayer with these words:

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory now and forever.
Amen.**

Matthew records a closing similar to this.

Luke has no closing to the Lord's Prayer.

Most likely these words, **For yours is the kingdom, power and glory for ever and ever**, were not part of the prayer Jesus gave to his disciples.

They seemed to have been added at a later time.

It really doesn't matter whether Jesus said it, or whether it was added years later by some copier of the Gospel under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We call this section the doxology, the closing.

But it's more than just a nice way to close the prayer.

It summarizes all that we have been praying for.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

I want to share with you what the German theologian Jorgen Moltmann had to say about these words:

**This hymn of praise to God's glory is not sung today
in a world without God,
but
rather in a world where people and powers
make gods out of themselves."**

People don't deny there is a God, Moltmann said.

They just don't want to share power, or glory with God!

How true!

Moltmann went on to say, that many, including Christians, are more apt to say,

- Mine is the kingdom Lord, not yours,
- Mine is the power, not yours
- And the glory belongs to no one but me, Lord!

People today no longer want to endure human limitations and shortcoming,

We don't want to live with weakness and its ambiguity.

After all this is the 21st century.

This should be the best of all times!

And if you will permit me to quote Moltmann once more, He said:

"What everyone is striving after is divinity, in its strength and security.

We can't apparently permit God to be God.

**We have to turn ourselves into
mighty supermen or little mini-gods.**

For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours Lord --
not only today, or when I feel like letting You, God, rule, but now and always.

Our heavenly Father is in charge!

Are you ready to say that?

I am!

I can't provide for my family or myself.

I can't deal with the mess I've created in my life and in my family.

I hate to admit it, God, but I need you more than I am willing to admit.

There is no shame in admitting that we need God.

We need to hear and know that He is in charge: **the kingdom is mine, it is His!**

Our world is going through a great upheaval.

Old powers and kingdoms are fading as new powers and new economical powers come on the scene.

It has happened in the past. But now it is happening before our eyes.

Who is Number One?

Who is going to determine the future?

To whom is the kingdom of the earth going to belong?

Answer is God.

- Our God who made all things,

- Our God who came into his own world so that he could only himself as the sacrifice that would forever free us from fears and prejudices.

Whose kingdom is this?

It belongs to our loving Father who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

The Washington Redskins did not have a good preseason.

After being humiliated 2 weeks ago in a preseason game, one of the coaches tried to calm fears by saying;

We are not trying to show our trick plays and such during the preseason.

All we are doing is lining up our best players against our opponents and let them, the players, decide by their own strength and wit who is the better team.

If that's true, this upcoming season is going to be a disaster, because Redskins are being physically outplayed and out maneuvered by stronger teams.

They are being pushed around.

No one likes to be pushed around!

We want to feel we have the strength to stand up for our rights.

But it doesn't work that way.

Sometimes we are up against stronger and more cunning foes.

But there is no one more powerful than God.

God showed his power by dying on a cross and then coming back to life 3 days later.

That is power - power over life and death!

Jesus shares this power with us.

It is a power that frees us

- to live
- and serve
- and give our lives in service to others knowing that God can still work miracles.

Our God is an awesome God.

He takes care of our needs.

- He can still cause water to come out of rocks as he did in the wilderness,
- He can still raise the dead as he raises us from the death of despair and give us life and hope.

Yours is the glory - Father.

Years ago Communist leaders would often put on public displays in Red Square in Moscow.

At the end of the public speech or display of power, crowds were directed to applaud.

Not for just a few moments but for long periods of time.

Soviet agents were displaced among the crowds to ensure that the people kept applauding.

These displays of support could go on for almost an hour. Crowds were scared to stop applauding.

If I stop too soon, maybe that person next to me belongs to the secret police and will arrest me.

In that case, my family will never see me again!

Soviets used these displays as a Public Relations gimmick to demonstrate how successful they were and how much their citizens admired and supported the government.

It was felt to be a show of their glory and power.

The only glory that really counts is God's glory.

The glory of our loving Father who raised His son from the dead.

God did that without fanfare or applaud.

He showed his glory in the empty tomb, not for his own glory but for us.

Easter morning is for our glory - a sign of what awaits us in heaven.

For yours is the kingdom Lord, for yours is the power and the glory.

Today, tomorrow and forever and ever. Amen and amen!