

Questions 118 & 119

Name _____

Q 118. What is the fifth petition? - “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

Q119. What do we pray for in the fifth petition? - That God would pardon our sins for Christ’s sake, and enable us to forgive those who have injured us.

Scripture Base: Matt. 6:5-15, 18:21-35

Doctrine: WCF 21: 3, 4 SC 105

Supplementary Questions

1. What are the debts Jesus is talking about here?
2. Why do we need to have our debts forgiven?
3. Why do we need to ask for this forgiveness in Jesus name?
4. What will God do to us if we do not forgive others for their sins against us?

Songs: “The Lord’s Prayer” and
“Let Us Pray” – Judy Rogers

Teaching Notes

Review: Q116. What is the fourth petition? - *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Q117. What do we pray for in the fourth petition? - *That God would give us all things needful for our bodies and souls.*

Story: Matt. 18:21-35 “The Unforgiving Servant”

Questions

1. He is speaking about our debts to God’s justice – the sins we commit (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn 1:10). Every time we break one of God’s laws, His Ten Commandments, we become indebted and guilty (1 Jn 3:4; Jas 2:10), a debt that God demands must be paid because of His justice.
2. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). This includes physical death and eternal death. Death is what our sins justly deserve. If our sins are not forgiven and our debts are not paid, then God will justly demand that we pay for them forever in hell. (This is what is meant by handing the servant over to the torturers in Matt. 18).
3. Jesus is the only One who can pay this debt. Our debts are infinite (limitless) because we have sinned against an infinitely holy God. Only one who is infinitely worthy can pay for them. Jesus can, being both God and man. Jesus is the only One God has given to pay this debt (2 Cor. 5:21; Is. 53:5-6).
4. He will not forgive our sins (Matt. 6:12, 14-15). The Lord does not forgive us because we forgive others (that would be salvation by works, not by faith alone), but when we can forgive others, this shows that He has changed our hearts and already forgiven us.

Gospel: Have you asked God to forgive your sins? Do you know whether He hears you and has forgiven you? One way you can tell is whether you are able to forgive others. If you can, and if you can do it freely from your heart, that is a good indication that God’s Spirit is in your heart and that you are forgiven. If you cannot forgive, that is a good indication that the Spirit is not in your heart and that you still need to be forgiven of your sins. If that is the case, trust in Jesus. Look to Him to forgive your sins and make you right with God, and for the grace and strength you need to forgive others.

Activity: Act out story with stick puppets & pennies.

Songs: “The Lord’s Prayer” & “Let Us Pray”–Judy Rogers