Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

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**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #121

RESPOND in Faith: ***Our Help is in the name of the Lord our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all the earth!*** ***May*** Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love ***be yours*** from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Let us praise Our Lord and Our God with joy as we sing ***PSALM*** **#100 *“Shout to the Lord with joy”***

***We will profess our faith using the Apostles’ Creed (p6)***  *Please be seated*

And **#123 *“To you, O Lord, I lift my eyes”***

*Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 52*

**Scripture Reading: James 1:2-18**

*Let us come before the Lord now in our time of* **Congregational Prayer**

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Song: #119:33-40 “Teach me, O Lord” *Vs 33-40***

Let us respond to God’s grace and mercy in Christ, ***by generously and cheerfully*** giving to support God’s kingdom work thru His tithes & our additional Free-will offerings! ***( Deacons)***

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: #91 “The one whose dwelling is with God” *Vs 1,3,4,5,6***

***Sermon Text:* Matthew 6:9-13 + footnote *Sermon Title: “Deliver us from Ourselves”***

***Let us now sing a* song of Response Dwelling*–*#511 “Our Father, clothed with majesty” *Vs 1,6,7,8***

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

 ***Doxology*: #150 B**

# Evening Sermon: “Deliver us from ourselves” NS HC#61 Final

Text: Matthew 6:5-15 + LD 52, James 1:2-18

**Introduction: Children…** How many of you want some pain and trouble/trials in your life? None of you? The Bible repeatedly tells us how God uses *trials & pain & temptation* to bless God’s people… James even said in our reading, “Count it all joy.. when you meet trials of various kinds…” So, are you sure that you wouldn’t like some pain/trial? Of course not… We know God can use it, but that doesn’t make us *want* to go through evil/pain, does it? Well, God in His grace acknowledges that we naturally don’t want to go through evil or temptation, **and in the Lord’s prayer, Jesus makes it clear that it is okay** – *even good* – **for us to ask God to spare us from such times!**

**It is righteous to ask God to deliver us from Evil and to lead us not into temptation!**

(**Review**) This is the final Lord’s Day sermon in our series… We have been working on this for nearly the last 3 years since I first arrived in November 2017! As we have seen thru our sermons on the Lord’s prayer… God makes it clear that His name, His Glory, His Kingdom, and His Will are all more important than your daily needs or mine! ***Indeed, God sets our priorities through the order of this prayer, and he saves for last, this concept of asking God to spare us from temptation and evil***… God’s Provision and forgiveness are also more important than our protection from temptation or trial/pain… In that way, this final request being last can be a hard pill to swallow!

 But of course, this isn’t the first time we have been confronted thru this prayer. For Jesus taught us to pray, “God, forgive me in the same way that I am forgiving others” WHICH ALSO MEANS: “If I am not forgiving others, Lord, then don’t forgive me either!” And this could be a temptation not to pray this! Yet, as we saw, that shouldn’t lead you to stop praying the Lord’s Prayer, but rather it helps us realign our will and priorities with God’s and to give true forgiveness our proper attention!

And tonight as we look at this 6th request, we will see that we are asking God to spare us the hard lessons of life:

***In Prayer: God, Do not leave us on our own even for a moment, but deliver us from Evil all for your glory!***

*We will divide the text into three parts*

1. **God’s Control over Evil**
2. **God’s Deliverance from Evil**
3. **God’s Blessing through Evil**

*Our first point is:*

# God’s Control over Evil (REPEAT)

* 1. **What evil are we talking about here?**

*We mention temptation and evil in this request, but what are we referring to?*

 The word translated as temptation is the same word use in James 1. That word has two meanings, and is frequently used in both ways: It refers to trial/suffering and also to temptation/enticement to sin.

 *So, this could refer to the temptation to steal money (or tools) at work, or to the trial of having your house burn down (or the loss of a loved one).*

 The word translated as evil in the second half of this request means: ***that which is wicked, difficult, vicious*** – and could be a reference to Satan… some versions have the EVIL One (as a reference to Satan).

 As the Catechism explains: We typically recognize **that** the World, the Flesh and the Devil conspire to attack us with evil. I entitled this sermon: Deliver us from ourselves, because as we also learned in James 1 – we sin when we are tempted and enticed by our own sinful hearts/desires! The World and the Devil play a part in that process, but the old man of sin is the most difficult enemy we face! Indeed, the Devil and the World are only appealing and powerful because *you and I* **are naturally sinful**…

*Now, there are a couple of interesting questions here:*

1. *If we sin because we choose to do so, Why pray about it?*
2. *If God is good, why do we speak to Him about Him NOT LEADING US into Temptation? Would a Good God do that?*

*Yes… in two ways – For his good purposes (which we will look at under the 3rd point) and Second*

* 1. ***Because God is in control of ALL things in life!***

God is not the author of evil, and yet nothing is outside His control! It is hard for us to understand, but you sin because you want to, and yet your decision is not beyond the control of God. For if it was beyond His control, then it would make ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE to ask Him to help you! ***Why would the American Space program ask me to help them take a rocket to Mars? They wouldn’t, because I couldn’t help them!*** *But we ask God not to lead us into temptation and trial because He is in control of all things!* Imagine Man’s responsibility (Satan’s as well) as one hand, and God’s sovereignty as the other. They don’t seem to connect together, but they work hand in hand… And yet in God’s infinite greatness: from one hand to the other – the two are connected and make sense. On this earth, all we see are those two hands, and it won’t be until we see God Himself in eternity that we will see how those two hands connect … ***for now*** *we have to trust God.*

* 1. **We do that by believing God…**

***As James explains: We can’t blame God for our sin, but we can trust Him before, during and after!***

**For** **Example**: God can turn sin to our Good – we have only to look at Joseph and read Romans 8:28 to be reminded of God’s perfect plan and power! If God is powerful enough to do that, then he can certainly hear and deliver us in the first place! **Believe/Trust/Pray**

***How can He deliver us?*** *That brings us to our Second point, where we see:*

# God’s Deliverance from Evil (REPEAT) How does God deliver? In 3 ways…

1. *God Limits the Temptation –*

**1 Corinthians 10:*13***  *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.* God providentially prevents the opportunity when we are most likely to sin. **Have you ever had the experience of desiring to sin, but you had no opportunity?** And then, you have probably had other times when you had the opportunity – but no desire to stray from the Lord! ***That is God’s limiting Grace!*** But of course, that doesn’t always work the way we think… There was a time when I wanted to sin and had the opportunity to do so, but God gave me a horrible nauseating headache until I agreed to try to be a witness for him (and the headache went away, and I had several Gospel conversations that night!). There was another time when I was heading somewhere with the outright intention to rebel against God, and I had a bad car wreck… That was God’s way of escape – his limiting my temptation!

1. *God sends His Spirit to strengthen and remind you of His promises* **(2nd way God delivers)**

 This is when the Holy Spirit gives you the only weapon of God’s Armour: the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God… and He does this by reminding you of the scriptures you have learned and studied: The ***Holy Spirit* reminds you:** **“God provides a Way of escape”** then you look for it… or **“flee from sexual immorality”** and then you look for how to flee… “**the way of the sinner is hard”** and your eyes are open to see the poison in that temptation (and not just the appeal of the pleasure of sin for a season…). ***And so on and so forth…***

But what if you never memorize scripture? What if you never meditate on it? *Then you can expect that the Spirit won’t have as much Scripture Ammo to help you!*

 **Man’s responsibility and God’s power are not contradictory** – But your study of the word is your Sword to fight off temptation. If you don’t know it, or leave it dormant/idle in the sheath, it will do you little good! **As one pastor I heard explained**: Studying, memorizing and praying over God’s Word is giving ammunition to the Holy Spirit – because the Spirit doesn’t give you new revelation any more – *Rather, He applies what has already been given – so it is your job to know it!* It is the Spirit’s job to bless it, help you understand it, and remind you of it when you need it most! ***So of course, your study of God’s Word is a vital part of your responsibility when you pray this prayer!***

1. *God specifically chains/restrains Satan* **(3rd way God delivers)**

 God doesn’t allow Satan free reign on His saints but intercedes on their behalf. He will not allow Satan one inch further than is beneficial for His saints! We see Satan chained in Revelation 20, but we see practically how God limits Satan in Job – for even back then, God told Satan exactly how far he could go, but no further! And so, while **Satan is guilty** of attacking us, and the **World is guilty** of enticing us and **we are guilty** of choosing sin… ***God nonetheless is in control and can over-rule and protect us!***

God Sovereignly Decrees that We won’t go into any situation beyond our ability to obey, and God’s Spirit is active in our hearts (as we are open to Him), and even that great lion Satan is on a leash. ***And so we can confidently ask God to* lead us not *into temptation and to deliver us from evil because* He can & does deliver us!**

*Indeed as we see in our 3rd point, God can make that evil a blessing!* ***God’s control over Evil, God’s Deliverance from Evil***

# God’s Blessing through Evil (REPEAT)

***I want to remind you, that Even Trial and Temptation work for your good! I mentioned before, God has put priorities in this prayer… and His name, glory, kingdom, will, daily provision and His forgiveness for you* are all more important *than your comfort! … or your protection from Evil!*** If we pray with God’s priorities, then it is possible that God can answer “Yes” to the first part of your prayer, and simultaneously “No” to the later part! Yes to extending His kingdom – thru taking you thru trial! My dad witnessed to so many people from a hospital bed! Not his plan – but certainly God’s! ***When we think of praying this request, we need to be reminded of Why God may answer “No”!***

**We may ask to be delivered from some temptation/evil, & God might say no to teach you a lesson or to work some greater good… If you don’t understand How God can Use evil for good, you might give up praying this prayer!**God makes trial/temptation & evil work for our good in 3 major ways; ***He uses evil/trial/tempt:***

1. *To test you and show you your unworthiness in order to refine/sanctify you*

If I warn or ask you about your struggle with *coveting, anger etc* … And you don’t yet know that you have the problem – you will be offended. *Likewise we don’t heed God’s warnings about pride, lust, greed, coveting, and many other sins because we don’t yet know we have a problem* – *so God interrupts our lives and leads us through the fire to show how much of our life is dross/sin (because it burns up) and then He takes us through the water/flood so that we see all the holes in our faith (because we see the leaks)!* For then we will listen better to His instruction when He says, plug the holes in your faith and build with the gold silver and precious stones of humble obedience! ***(test2sanctify)***

1. ***He uses evil/trial/tempt:*** *To make you humble and remove your pride*

**Pride is the most destructive sin! Pride** was the first sin which led to the fall of Satan – He used to be Lucifer, but pride caused him to be cast down. **Pride/self-dependence** preceded Peter’s denial of Christ (I will never deny you even if everyone else does...! – ***No Peter, give it a couple of hours and some servant girls and you will!*** ).

**God says that He resists the proud**: which means that He will not *deliver you from evil* until your pride is gone first. ***Thomas Watson described this well***: Pride puffs us up, but God in His love hands us over to be punctured by Satan to relieve the swelling! And so, afflictions, temptations, and even failure are meant to punch through that pride and let all the hot air and swelling escape, that we might return to the Lord reduced back to normal size & humility!

1. ***He uses evil/trial/tempt:*** *To make us long for Heaven and Christ all the more…*

We naturally focus on created things instead of our Creator God … And so, God in His rich mercy shows us the things that last by destroying that which doesn’t! We won’t keep focusing on the hay and sticks of this life, if God uses affliction or temptation to light them on fire – instead we will turn our focus to that which remains – the gold and precious stones of Heaven! *We will turn again to the glory of God’s kingdom to the praise of our Triune God!*

*And that is how we should end our prayers*, in gratitude and praise! BECAUSE regardless of whether God leads us away from temptation or delivers us from Evil – WE KNOW THAT He Rules and He is worthy of Praise! ***And the Doxology to the Lord’s Prayer is a fitting response of the humble heart…***For when you see your weakness, and you see God’s power and control – then you should burst out with praise and worship for your God! For to Him belongs the kingdom and the power and the glory Forever and ever! *And all God’s people said,* ***AMEN***

***Now, as you can see in vs.13, the Doxology of the Lord’s prayer is not recorded in our modern translations…*** *But that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t pray it… for those words are still God’s Words even if they weren’t originally in Matthew’s or Luke’s Gospels!*

***Let me explain:*** as best we know, all Jewish prayers ended with some form of doxology. And yet, some of the best manuscripts of the NT do not have the LD’s Prayer doxology included. The main understanding is that either Jesus left that part of the prayer open, or that some scribe left the doxology out…

But the good thing about the doxology we have as part of the Lord’s prayer, is that it is essentially the same as King David’s doxology from **I Chronicles 29:11-12 – There King David ascribes to God the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory forever!**

And so it is fitting to pray for God to provide for our needs, to forgive us our sins, to teach us and sanctify us without leading us through trial and temptation, and to deliver us from evil… and then after praying all of that – **to submit our will to His by ending with a doxology of Praise** – which reminds us of what we prayed for at the start! God’s name, Glory, Kingdom and Will!

In that we are Acknowledging that God’s Will is perfect and good, and that He alone knows best!

***Truly to God belongs the Kingdom, all the power, And All glory, Forever and Ever. Amen!***

PRAYER

***Let us now sing a* song of Response Dwelling*–*#511 “Our Father, clothed with majesty” *Vs 1,6,7,8***

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

 ***Doxology*: #150 B**