

Deliver Us From Evil (Matt 6:13)

Introduction: ‘And...’ Are we as concerned about deliverance from future sin as past?

The previous petition dealt with forgiveness for our past (you might say, our justification). This petition deals with deliverance for the future (you might say, our sanctification). And these two blessings must not be severed. “O God, give me chastity and self-control ... but not yet” (Augustine, *Confessions*).

1. ‘Lead us not into temptation’ - Does God really lead us into temptation? Why?

For “God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone” (Jam 1:13-14). But “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt 4:1; compare 2Chr 32:31, 2Sam 24:1, Matt 26:35, Luke 22:31-32, Rom 7:18, Ps 119:113, Ps 81:11-12).

“Temptations are Satan’s work; but Satan is God’s tool as well as his foe (cf. Job 1:11f.; 2:5f.), and it is ultimately God himself who leads his servants into temptation (Matt 4:1; 6:13), permitting Satan to try to seduce them for beneficent purposes of his own. ...The desire which impels to sin is not God’s but one’s own” (J. I. Packer, “Temptation,” *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

Westminster Confession 5.5, “The most wise, righteous, and gracious God doth oftentimes leave, for a season, his own children to manifold temptations, and the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled;^(t) and, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon himself, and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for sundry other just and holy ends.^(u) ^(t) 2Chron. 32:25,26,31; 2Sam. 24:1 ^(u) 2Cor. 12:7-9; Ps. 73; 77:1-12; Mk. 14:66-72 with John 21:15-17.”

This prayer acknowledges God’s *sovereignty* over all sin—as all creatures are at the sovereign disposal of their Maker—God’s *justice* toward our sin—for he is just in giving men over to their own evil desires—and God’s *mercy* in spite of our sin—though we have provoked God, and still desire sin, we pray that God will have mercy upon us.

2. ‘But deliver us from evil’ – But who is meant?

We pray that God would deliver us from all our enemies, often summarized as the world, the flesh, and the devil. “God, we pray that you would preserve us in your strength, that you would overrule in the world, subdue our proud hearts, restrain the tempter, and order all things that we would be delivered from all evil.”

Application

We need a *holy difference* and a *healthy presence*. See John 17:15-18, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ... As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world

Q. 195. What do we pray for in the sixth petition? A. ... we pray, that God would so over-rule the world and all in it,^(l) subdue the flesh,^(m) and restrain Satan,⁽ⁿ⁾ order all things,^(o) bestow and bless all means of grace,^(p) and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them, that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin;^(q) or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation;^(r) or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it,^(s) and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof:^(t) that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected,^(u) Satan trodden under our feet,^(x) and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, for ever.^(y) ^(l) John 17:15 ^(m) Ps. 51:10; Ps. 119:133 ⁽ⁿ⁾ 2Cor. 12:7,8 ^(o) 1Cor. 10:12,13 ^(p) Heb. 13:20,21 ^(q) Matt. 26:41; Ps. 19:13 ^(r) Eph. 3:14-17; 1Th. 3:13; Jude 24 ^(s) Ps. 51:12 ^(t) 1Pe. 5:8-10 ^(u) 2Cor. 13:7,9 ^(x) Rom. 16:20; Zech. 3:2; Lk. 22:31,32 ^(y) John 17:15; 1Th. 5:23