

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 184. Lawful = Biblical.

Main Point of Text: God turns a deaf ear to the prayer life of those who won't listen to the Law of the Lord for their living.

Sermon Point: *Pray for Things Lawful.*

Move 1: You are to pray “Thy will be done” in all things to glorify the God of all things.

LC: “We are to pray for all things”:

- “tending to the glory of God”: WLC Q&A 1. Mt. 6:9-10: *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Closes For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (vs. 13)*
- “the welfare of the church”:
 - Ps. 51:18: *Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*
 - Ps. 122:6: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.*
- “our own ... good”: Mat. 7:11: *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*
- “others good”: Psa. 125:4: *Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.*

Move 2: You are never to pray for anything against God's revealed will, nor live against Him.

LC: “but not for any thing that is unlawful [unbiblical]”: **1 John 5:14:** *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.* Opposite also is true:

- Psalm 109:7: *When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin.*
- Proverb 21:13, 17: *Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard ... The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind? So to their prayers.*
- Proverb 28:9: *The one that takes away his ear from hearing of the Law [“Torah”: instruction, direction] also his prayer is abomination [to the Lord]. Must have the Giver to have His gifts.*
- When you are an abomination to Him, so are your prayers: ... *when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. (Isa. 1:15) Psalm 66:18-20: *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.**

Conclusion:

Pray for Things Lawful.