

Prayers by Mike Thompson

Before the Sunday School hour begins (studying the book of Mark)

*“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”*

Mark 1:2,3

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the Word of God. It is more precious than all of the gold and silver, more precious than technology such as iPhones and everything that this world values. Your Word is more precious than all of it. Thank you for your Holy Spirit which is in the process of awakening our hearts to know your word and delight in it. Father, help us as we study Mark, to understand Christ better and understand ourselves better that we would fall more deeply in love with you and that you would transform us to be more like yourself. We would pray this in Jesus name, Amen.

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Mark 1:12,13

Heavenly Father,

Thank you so much for the Lord’s Day. Thank you that we have a wonderful fellowship of saints to gather with. Thank you for the other classes, the student classes and the other adult classes. We pray that your hand will bless each of them that ultimately we would know the truth, the truth about you, the truth about ourselves, and your Spirit would enable us to have ears to hear. Lord, free us from ourselves and free us from this world and from Satan that we might truly walk with you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Thank you because you have loved us. You have loved us with an everlasting love. Lord, one of my greatest sins is not thinking highly enough of the love that you have for me. I, too often, live like I’m an orphan rather than trusting you and relying upon you, clinging to you. I pray that you would help us today to know you rightly and to live as children in your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mark 1:16,17

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gospel. I am without hope apart from Jesus Christ and His righteousness. Even in my best days my righteousness is filthy rags. Only the righteousness of Christ suffices to bring me to yourself. Father, I praise you for giving us salvation. I praise you that you will not only begin the work but you will complete it and you are taking us to glory. Thank you for that. I pray, Father, that you might increase our faith. Also, I pray that you might expand your church, that you might call more people to yourself, that they might find true peace and joy in knowing Christ. Thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Three in one,

We recognize the entire trinity as necessary for our salvation, for our joy and gladness. We pray, Father, that as we particularly look at the glory of the Son, that our hearts will be stirred to greater faith, greater devotion, greater submission to you. Lord, please, not because of our great earnestness but because of the rich mercy of Christ, please forgive our lack of faith. Forgive our distrust of you. Everything you have done has been so wonderful. We praise you for it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the Lord's Day. Thank you for people who want to hear the truth. I pray that you would bless our study of the truth today. Please do a second work which is taking the truth and planting it in our hearts. Forgive us for not loving the truth as we ought. Forgive us for ignoring portions and wanting to go our own way. Help us to walk in obedience to you. Give us a newness, a freshness, in our relationship with you, such that we would love you with our whole heart. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

"Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:16,17

Lord Jesus Christ,

Even though we cannot see you, we love you. You definitely see us. You know us in full detail. It is both frightening and extremely comforting, knowing that you know us completely.

You know our failures and our past. You know our present weaknesses. You know areas of sanctification that still have to occur, areas that we're not even aware of. We thank you for all of those. Thank you that you are our God, our Savior. We ask that you would use your Word and your Spirit to help us to trust you, to walk with you, and to obey you in this life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Father,

Thank you so much for this wonderful day, your Lord's Day, the day that we celebrate your resurrection from the dead, and our participation into the covenant of grace. Thank you for it and I ask, God, that you would bless us as we study your Word. I know I am a sinner, in need of your forgiveness, in need of your cleansing power. I am thankful for both the freedom from my guilt but also the freedom from the slavery to sin. I cherish that every day. I ask that you would help us in that process, help us to grow in Christ and to love Him more. In Jesus name, Amen.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you so much for life itself. Not just physical life but spiritual life and the hope of eternal life. Lord, we are in a life and death struggle every day against sin. Lord, you are the one who provides strength to overcome. Sometimes that strength doesn't come as quickly as we would want. We still acknowledge our sins and our failures to you. We are thankful that you are persistent, that you are patient, that you really are unrelenting in calling your chosen people to yourself. We are thankful. We pray, Father, that we would learn today from your Word, from the rich young ruler, and from the lessons that you are teaching us through this portion of Scripture. I pray Father that you would help us to praise you and love you, which is really what life is all about. In Jesus' name, Amen.

“ The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:26-29

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the Word of God. I am very blessed to be able to study your Word all throughout the week and to lead discussion on it and teach on it here on Sundays. I pray that the hearts of your people would be open. I pray that you would give us a hunger for the truth of your Word in a world where there is so little truth and so much falsehood. Lord, to have something that is so solid, so trustworthy, so solid that we can truly rest in it and trust in it. Your Word is precious and we thank you for it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Heavenly Father

Thank you so much for Sundays where we stand upon Mt. Pisgah and view our promised land. Lord, thank you for the rest that we have in Christ, the rest from the wrath of God. Thank you for the freedom that you give us to overcome sin. We know that freedom is imperfect in this life and sin still tenaciously fights against us in one form or another. We are no longer enslaved and we thank you for that. We ask, God, that as we study Mark today that you would fill us with your Spirit, that the truth of God would be written upon our hearts and that we would know you rightly. We pray, Father, that you would bring more and more people to a knowledge of the truth and that you would call your people to yourself and give them a love for the truth. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One,

We're here because you exist. We're here because you are supreme over this world and the things that we see have been created by the One whom we cannot see. And we're here because of your Son Jesus Christ and His willingness to pursue us. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for not leaving us in our sin, for not leaving us to ignore you or hate you but to overcome. Thank you for giving us life. We give you praise. We ask that you would fill us with your Spirit this morning. We pray that we would have teachable minds and that those things that we learn we would apply throughout the week. We pray that you would alter our lives, that we would live our lives on a course for eternity. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you so much for the Lord's Day. It is a wonderful privilege that you tell us we do not have to be a slave to work, that we can pause from what it takes to live and make ends meet in this world. We can worship you on this special day and know that you are our Father. Thank you that you love us and care for us deeply.

Thank you, Father, for this class and everybody here. I do pray that your Word would speak into our hearts, that we would know something of yourself better today, that we would know something of ourselves, and just what it means to walk with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for life. Thank you that we have breath. Thank you that we have been provided for by you. Thank you for the ability that we have in Christ to submit to you and to obey you. Thank you for your Spirit which works in us. We are in need of Him every day, every moment of every day.

Father, help us today to honor your Word and to honor You. Help us to see the Word of God as a solid rock. Father, those that we know that are either sick or ill in some way, Lord, we pray your mercy upon them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15,16